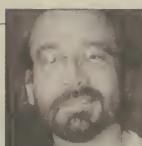


Bad RAVE bill moves through Senate
Proposal would target club promoters
and others for illicit drug use on property.
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After Club Townsend
New venues seek to fill
void in SF clubland.
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Rossini meets Riot Grrrl
David Scott Marley's 'Riot
Grrrl on Mars' in Berkeley.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 29 • 18 July 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Canada decision has far-reaching implications

by Zak Szymanski

Last week's Canadian federal court decision that recognized the right of gay couples to marry may take years to implement, but will no doubt have an effect on American laws and attitudes, LGBT advocates agreed.

On Friday, July 12, three Ontario Superior Court judges unanimously ruled in a Divisional Court decision that prohibiting gay couples from marrying is unconstitutional based on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The ruling stemmed from a case filed on behalf of eight gay and lesbian couples seeking marriage licenses in Toronto, along with two couples who were officially married by the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, which has the authority to issue marriage certificates that the government is expected to register. MCC, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, asked the court to validate the same-sex marriages it performed.

At MCC, lesbian couple Elaine Vautour and Anne Vautour, and gay couple Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell used the ancient tradition of having their "banns read" in December 2000 and January 2001; the alternative process to securing a marriage license involves asking church members on three consecutive Sundays whether they object to the union. Once the couples received their certificates, they attempted to register their marriages with the province and were denied based on common law (there is no definition of marriage in federal law).

The lawsuit began in November 2001, and last week's victory has not yet affected Canadian practices, as the court suspended its order for two years to allow Parliament and the provincial Legislature to change their laws. In the meantime, the federal government will probably appeal to the Supreme Court, but because the ruling seems legally sound and a majority of Canadians accept same-sex marriage, the decision is expected to stand.

"The ruling will have a tremendous impact here in the United States," Mike Marshall, executive director of Californians for Civil Marriage, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It recognizes what more and more Californians are realizing: that the government has to stop discriminating against lesbian and gay couples. And once those marriages begin to occur in Canada it will put huge pressure on courts here in the U.S. to rule in favor of lesbian and gay couples. It's all quite encouraging for the whole freedom to marry movement."

Marshall also praised MCC of
page 21 ►

Smith lawyer blasts Judge Warren

by Ed Walsh



Sharon Smith is consoled by one of her attorneys, Michael Cardoza, after the sentencing hearing for Marjorie Knoller on Monday, July 15.

An attorney for Sharon Smith, the partner of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple, is blasting San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren for implying that a jury's conviction of second-degree murder against one of the dogs' caretakers, Marjorie Knoller, was tantamount to vigilante justice.

"That really set me back on my heels," an angry Michael Cardoza told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I thought he was really overreaching and the hyperbole escaped me. I don't think he understands second-degree murder. I don't know how many murder trials he's tried. He may have gotten in over his head."

On Monday, July 15, Warren sentenced Knoller to the maximum term of four years in state prison for involuntary manslaughter. Warren shocked courtroom observers last month when he threw out Knoller's second-degree murder conviction.

"This is such a high publicity case and I'm worried what jurors and potential jurors will think," Cardoza said. "Do all judges do this? Do they all take this away? I think that he has created a monster here."

Warren addressed the criticism over his controversial decision at the start of Monday's sentencing hearing. Specifically, Warren addressed comments by Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer that he "destroyed a sense of justice in San Francisco."

"A sense of justice is precisely what this court will never become involved in creating," said Warren. "A sense of justice is personal. It is infected with bias, prejudice, public opinion, public feeling, everything the court should not be involved in. A sense of justice was achieved by vigilante posses. A sense of justice I would suggest was achieved by Ku Klux Klan members. And I dare say a sense of justice was achieved by people who flew airplanes into buildings not so long ago. That is not justice. That is not justice, in fact. It is a sense of justice that is personal and it is precisely that which this court will seek to avoid. We will administer justice in fact in this case without regard to whether anyone feels that a sense of justice on a personal level has been achieved."

Hammer later responded to Warren when he got a chance to speak: "I was honest with you to your face about my reaction and I didn't mean it personally and I hope
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Mandela and Clinton close AIDS conference

by Ed Susman,
UPI Science News

Dipping into stories of their own personal experiences, former South Africa President Nelson Mandela and former U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday, July 12 exhorted delegates to the XIV International AIDS Conference to pursue getting lifesaving treatments to millions of people infected with the AIDS virus worldwide.

A frail-looking Mandela, 84, walked with a cane, but his voice boomed a message that stigma and secrecy was destroying people with human immunodeficiency virus — which causes AIDS — and people needed to speak out about their condition and demand treatment.

"If you keep quiet about AIDS you are signing your own death warrant," he said.

He called for "the rooting out of denial about the cause and con-

sequences of AIDS." However, Mandela said, "Eloquence about this pandemic is good, but it is not adequate. Unless we do something on the ground to follow up what we say, eloquence will be less than useless."

Mandela related how he personally interceded in getting a young woman in South
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From left, Marie Bobb Dupond, who is HIV-positive and from Tahiti, with former South African President Nelson Mandela and former U.S. President Bill Clinton at the closing session of the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain on July 12.

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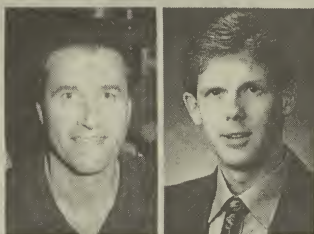
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Church announces plans for vacant lot

by Matthew S. Bajko

Billed as a garden dedication, the celebration this weekend at the vacant lot at Market, Noe and 16th streets that Bethany United Methodist Church will hold is really more like a baby shower in a sense.

In two and a half years, the congregation hopes to deliver to the Castro a new \$10 million ministry center catering to the neighborhood and community's needs. It would be not only a rebirth of sorts for the church, but also heal a scar long left on the neighborhood by fire.

For more than 20 years the lot at 2299 Market Street has been referred to as "the hole in the ground" after an arsonist set the former Trinity United Methodist Church ablaze in November 1981. The property has sat unused ever since, closed off from the street by a chain-link fence except for during the holiday season when it is used to sell Christmas trees.

With the newly planted and landscaped garden, Bethany United aims to not only brighten up the property, but turn it over for use by local community groups and residents. The church spent \$30,000 in grants from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Provident Financial, and the First United Methodist Church of Oneonta, a church in upstate New York that wanted to support the gay and lesbian community, to spruce up the lot.

"We wanted a simple space, something that was attractive to people as they walked by," explained the Reverend Karen Oliveto, the pastor for the 175-member congregation currently at 1268 Sanchez Street. "We wanted a space that denoted sanctuary."

The dedication ceremony of the garden, which was created by landscaper Brad Cavalier, will feature a performance by the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Band as well as tea sandwiches and lemonade.

"This is going to be a real garden party," said Oliveto.

After this weekend, the church hopes to launch a series of afternoon concerts on the garden's rectangular grass area that is lined with several white columns. It also has offered to lease out the space for commitment ceremonies, performances, and concerts in return for a donation. When not in use, the space will be locked.

"We want as many people using that space as possible," said Oliveto.

At the ceremony will also be architectural renditions of how the new building will look. While the plans are still being ironed out, and the church is just beginning the process of seeking public input, Oliveto said the new structure will contain a performance space, several retail spaces, and two worship spaces. The building will not resemble a church and instead will fit in with the character of the streetscape.

"We really want it to be some-

thing that people will walk by and want to walk into," said Oliveto. "We want something that fits the neighborhood in a classy, inviting way."

In addition to Bethany United, the Dolores Street Baptist Church has signed on to move into the new building when it is completed. While Bethany United plans to build a multipurpose worship space, the Baptist church wants a smaller, more traditional chapel.

The new building will be four stories with an unfinished basement. Along with the two churches, the building will also house the Little People's Workshop, a parent-run child care center for children under the age of 3. The church also hopes to rent out the basement to a performing arts group.

"The basement will be left unfinished so that it can be built out to the specifications of an arts group," explained Oliveto.

By August, the congregation hopes to move out of their current location in Noe Valley and sell that building to help pay for the new structure. Depending on how long the approval process takes, the church would like to move in to the new building by December 2004.

"We see it as our turn to leave a legacy for the generations that will follow us. The community will be able to use it for the next 100 years," said Oliveto.

The garden dedication will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20. For more information, call the church at (415) 647-8393. ▼

Mysterious shooting at Lands End

by Ed Walsh

U.S. Park Police say they are investigating a bizarre shooting at Lands End last week involving an uncooperative and evasive victim.

Police and paramedics were called to an area off a main walking trail around 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9. A witness spotted the victim bleeding from the chest and moaning. The witness ran to the nearby Cliff House restaurant where he phoned 911. Paramedics rushed the man to San Francisco General Hospital. He was shot once in the chest but his injuries weren't life-threatening. Police said he could be released from the hospital in a few days.

The area where the man was discovered is about a quarter mile from the parking lot in front of the USS San Francisco Memorial, north of the intersection of 48th

and Pt. Lobos avenues. He was found near the walking trail that runs off the far east end of the parking lot, in the stretch of the trail where the paved trail becomes unpaved. The area is a well-known gay cruising area and overlooks Lands End Beach. That section of the park is marked by piles of gravel and other materials used by park maintenance workers. The man was discovered in a wooded area off that main trail.

Although in San Francisco, the park is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Park Police. Park Police Investigator Robert Reidy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the victim, whom he declined to name, is very uncooperative and is no longer talking to investigators.

"He says, 'You figure it out,' and he just doesn't want to talk anymore," the detective said.

Reidy added that the 39-year-

old victim initially gave a false name and said that he was shot at Lands End during a robbery at 2 a.m., more than eight hours before he was first spotted by a passerby. The man declined to provide police with any information about his assailant or assailants.

The victim was dressed in a suit but Reidy said it was an old suit with rolled up cuffed pants and he suspects the man may be a transient.

Reidy noted that violent crime is very uncommon at Lands End. He said that the last shooting he could recall there was about four years ago. That incident was about a half mile away, near the Cliff House, and was gang-related. Reidy said robberies are also relatively rare, with only about a couple of reported cases every year.

Anyone with information about last week's incident is asked to call Investigator Robert Reidy at (415) 561-5148. ▼



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The early word is good on new top police brass

by Cynthia Laird

While acknowledging that the San Francisco Police Department has room for improvement – particularly when it comes to dealing with the transgender community – the early word among LGBTs is positive on new Police Chief Earl Sanders and Assistant Chief Alex Fagan.

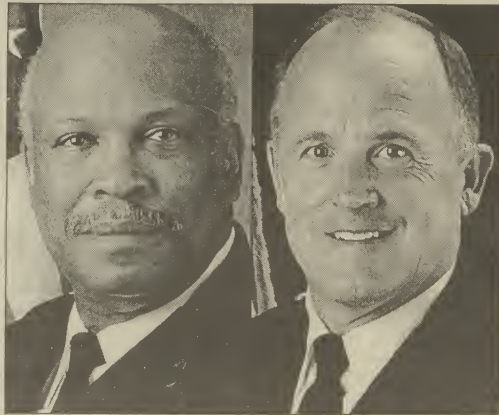
Sanders, who has more than 30 years of experience with the department, and Fagan, another longtime veteran, were named to their new positions by Mayor Willie Brown last Thursday, July 11. The Police Commission easily approved the picks that night at a special meeting.

Sanders had served for the past six years as assistant chief and Fagan previously ran the Northern Station. Former Police Chief Fred Lau announced his resignation last month. Last Friday, July 12, was his last day on the job.

"I've known both of them a long time and they are just what the department needs," Police Commissioner Wayne Friday told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week. "Both are seasoned street cops."

Friday, the political editor of the *B.A.R.*, also noted that both Sanders and Fagan are LGBT-friendly.

"As far as it pertains to the LGBT community, they under-



SFPD Police Chief Earl Sanders, left, and Assistant Chief Alex Fagan

stand the community's problems," Friday said.

Veronika Cauley, an HIV-positive African American transgender activist and candidate for supervisor in District 8, also had praise for the selection of Sanders. She said she did not know Fagan.

"I support Chief Sanders," she said, adding that she met him a couple of years ago.

Cauley said she hopes that the department will step up its efforts to recruit LGBT officers, especially those who are transgender.

"People need to start actively

recruiting now that we've lost a gay officer," Cauley said, referring to last month's death of Officer Jon C. Cook, who was killed in the line of duty. "Until transgenders have powerful and visible positions and jobs, others will just keep using us. That's the way I feel now."

Terry Person, executive director of Community United Against Violence, also offered encouraging words, but emphasized the need for the department to continue to make strides in dealing with the

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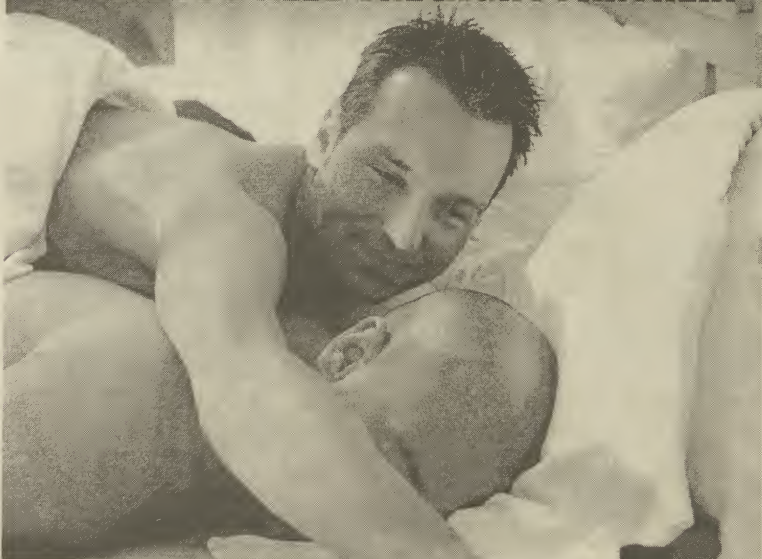
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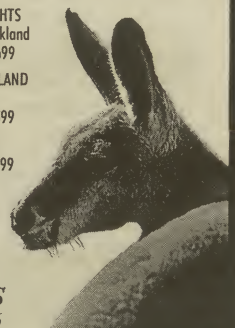
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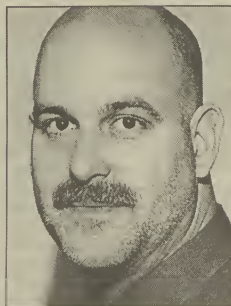
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Time to get ready for East Bay Pride

by Zak Szymanski

Don't put away your Pride gear just yet. Next month, East Bay Pride will celebrate its sixth annual celebration with the most exciting and extensive program of events in years, according to president and founder Pete King.

Honoring the East Bay as one of the most multicultural urban areas in the country, this year's theme is "DiversCity," and the name will be reflected as organizers build a united village linked by a variety of events over several days. With the traditional "Lighting of the Lake" at Oakland's Lake Merritt, East Bay Pride kicks off on Thursday, August 22 and is followed by a week of events, including the Diversity Youth of Color conference hosted by the SMAAC youth center; a one-day LGBT elders conference on Thursday, August 29; a choral



East Bay Pride's Pete King

concert; film and spoken word events; Alameda County's Imperial Court Coronation; the first-ever "Mz. East Bay Pride" pageant; and the bigger and better "PeaceOUT: World HomoHop Festival," from August 28-31, which will include LGBT hip-hop artists from as far

away as Stockholm.

"The goal of East Bay Pride is to showcase the arts and the diversity of the community and particularly serve communities that have historically lacked visibility and participation in Pride in other cities," said East Bay Pride's King. "We're trying to really build a whole sort of experience around Pride, and expand our activities throughout the region. We're not trying to duplicate what San Francisco does; this is our own thing, and worth the trip from wherever you live."

Pride Day itself takes place on Saturday, August 31 in front of Oakland City Hall and features three music stages: the women's stage, led by the legendary Cris

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Rebecca Prozan

Lesbian joins Rec & Park Commission

by Cynthia Laird

Out lesbian Rebecca Prozan, a former LGBT liaison to Mayor Willie Brown, was appointed by the mayor to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission. Prozan was named, along with former candidate for city attorney Jim Lazarus, to the panel and sworn in during a July 3 ceremony in City Hall.

While her first meeting as a commissioner isn't until later this month, Prozan said that she has already arranged to do gardening work at a city park to get firsthand experience of what city parks employees do.

"My approach is definitely hands-on," Prozan told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I'm totally looking forward to serving and am honored that Mayor Brown selected me."

The commission oversees all recreation and park facilities in the city, including Golden Gate Park, Dolores Park, and the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Prozan said that she is looking forward to working with the city's diverse users of recreational space, including parents with children, dog owners, and others.

Prozan also serves on the city's redistricting task force and while the supervisorial district lines were finalized several months ago, task force members have not yet been excused, pending any possible future legal challenges.

Prozan, a third-year law student at Golden Gate University, served as Brown's LGBT liaison from 1998 until 2000, when she resigned to attend law school. ▼

Petition aims to move Pride to July 4 in 2004

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the Fourth of July falling on a Sunday in 2004, and queer citizens still fighting for the same rights granted to straight Americans, a petition is being circulated to hold gay Pride on the country's birthday that year.

The one-time move would highlight the struggle gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders face in order to have the same rights and privileges as any other citizen of the United States, argues James DeVinny, a San Francisco resident who came up with the idea two years ago and wrote up the petition last month.

He said the initial concept was hatched during a Guerrilla Queer Bar event two years ago where a group of GLBT people held an impromptu Fourth of July Parade through West Portal.

"People got dressed to the nines with red, white, and blue. Then my friends and I started talking about how funny it was and how nothing is going on here really during the Fourth of July," said DeVinny. "We realized the possibility of having gay Pride on the Fourth of July and started talking about it jokingly for next year."

The idea never really took off seriously, DeVinny said, until several months after the terror at-

tacks of last September. After media accounts of how the same-sex partners of those who died would not automatically be recognized by the federal government, DeVinny said the concept of holding Pride on July 4 seemed all too appropriate.

"After September 11 we stopped talking about it all together. It seemed so petty and divisive in light of what happened," said DeVinny. "But then the discussion was revived after the way gays and lesbians were treated after September 11. They were treated as second-class citizens even though they should have been treated equally."

The petition calling for the one-time move is being circulated via the Internet and can be found online at

www.PetitionOnline.com/sf-pride4/petition.html. It states: "I recommend that the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee (www.sfpdpride.org) move the city's gay Pride festivities to the late afternoon and early evening of Sunday, July 4th in 2004, to celebrate basic American freedoms, and to underscore our struggle for equality as citizens of the United States of America."

By putting the petition on the World Wide Web, DeVinny said he wants to gauge if there is any support for changing Pride to the Fourth. If the plan lands with a thud, or if a majority of the com-

munity opposes such a switch, he said there would be no point in bringing the proposal before the Pride Committee.

"If nobody is interested in doing it then why waste their time. It should be a community event," said DeVinny, who is 30 and works for the San Francisco Opera.

But the petition not only has already prompted the attention of the Pride Committee — a member of the board contacted DeVinny within 12 hours of the petition being posted — it is receiving a warm reception from Teddy Witherington, the executive director of Pride.

Instead of reacting negatively to the proposal outright, which Witherington admitted was his immediate thought, the concept does have some merits, he said.

"When I first heard of it, I was 'Oh my god.' The more I thought about it, I said 'Hey, this is a really intriguing proposal,'" said Witherington. "It goes to the heart of so many issues around Pride and that is a good thing."

But Witherington added he has yet to decide if he favors the idea. He expects the board will place the petition on its agenda, though it may not come up until the November meeting.

"I think we are always open to new ideas and this is certainly one that is going to be very exciting
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OPEN FORUM

Lindh ain't no Mandela

One of the more bizarre spectacles of the war on terrorism occurred not in the rough terrain of Afghanistan, but right here in the U.S. — specifically, outside a federal courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia on Monday. It was there, after the U.S. government and lawyers for the so-called American Taliban John Walker Lindh reached a plea agreement that will spare Lindh life in prison, that his father, Frank Lindh, addressed the media.

Frank Lindh stood before a bank of television cameras and a crowd of reporters, and compared his 21-year-old son to Nobel Peace Prize winner and longtime human rights activist Nelson Mandela. Apparently, Frank Lindh was able to make this extraordinary leap in logic because John Lindh's plea bargain calls for him to serve up to 20 years in prison and Mandela served more than two decades in prison.

"I told John when he came back from Afghanistan, when I first met him, that Nelson Mandela served 26 years in prison. He's a good man, like John," Frank Lindh said. What a joke.

Mandela, of course, was jailed by the apartheid regime in South Africa that he had spent years fighting.

John Walker Lindh pleaded guilty to one felony count of providing service to the Taliban and a second charge of carrying explosives when he committed that felony. He chose to join and fight with the Taliban, certainly one of the most oppressive regimes in recent years.

Almost immediately after Frank Lindh's obviously false comparison, journalists were quick to point out the significant differences between John Lindh and Mandela, with one CNN reporter wryly noting in his story that "people who know Nelson Mandela say John Walker Lindh is no Nelson Mandela."

Frank Lindh's laughable statement is just the latest example of his denial. He has yet to address what may have influenced his son's support of the Taliban: possible anger and confusion over Frank Lindh's decision to leave his wife, reportedly for another man.

Now that the plea bargain has been reached and there will be no trial, we may never know exactly what led John Lindh to go to Afghanistan and join the Taliban; however, it seems to us that his apparent anger at his father may have had something to do with it.

Evidence of John Lindh's true feelings on homosexuality surfaced last year after he was found in Afghanistan. The *New York Daily News* reported on some of Walker's Internet postings between 1995-98, including those with homophobic comments.

"He disapproved of a Muslim convention being held at a theme park owned by Disney, whose productions are full of kaffir mythology, magic, occultism, sexism, racism, and homosexuality," the *Daily News* reported on December 11, 2001.

"To a poster asking for recognition that there are gay Muslims, he wrote: 'Please stop attempting to justify what you know is wrong,'" the paper noted.

Mark Bingham, the openly gay man who lost his life on September 11, was a hero. John Lindh is not. It's that simple. James Brosnahan, John Lindh's lead attorney, put out a press release Monday in which he noted that John Lindh "wishes to thank those who have supported him, especially his family. John has stated his intention to devote himself to study."

We have a suggestion for young Mr. Lindh — perhaps he can use some of the next 20 years in prison to overcome his homophobia. Homophobia, hand in hand with religious fundamentalism, can be a corrupting influence, and that may be what happened in this case. ▼



Editorial

SOME POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES from the GAY & LESBIAN MARKET SURVEY...



Q-Action's take on HIV study

by Antonio Kruger
and Roberto Ordeñana

It doesn't take a researcher in Barcelona to tell us what's been going on in our hometown.

In one of the more headline-making studies presented at the XIV International AIDS Conference held there last week, researchers found that 77 percent of men in five U.S. cities — not including San Francisco — who tested positive for HIV didn't know they were infected. Among young gay men of color, the gap was even wider — 90 percent of black men and 70 percent of Hispanics.

Here in the Bay Area, we've known for a few years now that testing rates have been going down, and that even fewer people pick up their results. This city, long a bellwether for national infection trends, has once again found itself on the cutting edge of the epidemic.

But in the flurry of media attention that accompanied the upsetting — if not surprising — statistics, we at Q Action, the young men's program of the Stop AIDS Project, were disappointed to hear the same old sound bites: "Young men don't take AIDS seriously," "They weren't around when we attended funerals every week," "They don't know everything we've been through."

We're frustrated by the statistics, too. But we know that behind each number is a story, and that the stories we hear from our participants don't resemble the headlines describing apathy and ignorance. It's time that our community stop underestimating its youth — our experience with AIDS is different, but it's no less real.

We count our losses in friends too scared and shamed by a slip-up to admit to themselves or a counselor that they might be at risk and need testing. We tally new infections among our old and current boyfriends and stand by their sides through tough

treatment decisions and life-altering side effects. The fact that in these times young positive men might still enjoy long lives is little consolation when compared to the blame and disappointment this community heaps upon those who "should have known better."

This new research shows that a staggering proportion of these unknown positives considered themselves at low risk for infection despite having engaged in such high-risk behavior as unprotected anal sex. But we're not stupid. When we deny to ourselves the risks we take, we do so with the same excuses used by older guys: "It was just that once," "He would have told me if he were positive," "Guys my age don't have it."

We do have different reasons for telling ourselves that, though.

Sure, kids come out at 14 or 15 now. And we know there's no way that would have been possible without the long, hard battles fought and won by those who came before us. But without the stability of a mature perspective on life — or the security of a job or place to live — coming out in our early teens can be more *Romeo + Juliet* than a revolutionary act.

But, like millions of young gay men before, maybe you and your best friend wind up fooling around. You're not just in love, you're a love story. It's the two of you against the world — where the world is your parents, who control where and what you do. The two of you have known each other forever, so you don't ask who's done what before except to figure out how to do what feels good. You don't use a condom because when it's the whole world against the two of you, you do what you can to feel like the world outside doesn't exist.

Pretty soon, sex without a condom is the comfort zone, whether it's with that first love or the next one. By the time kids sneak

out to the Castro, there's a lot to unlearn. Add to this that, whether we've come out or are picked out by bullies for being too pierced, too femme, or just too different, gay kids struggle with basic safety and constant unwanted attention in school. We're not going to be eager to admit to behavior we've repeatedly been told is just plain wrong.

Most of the young gay men behind those statistics have never gotten tested; many come from homes without access to health care, or where the medical establishment is automatically considered suspect. Taking an HIV test is not a regularly scheduled event. It's a moment of reckoning. Surely you understand how that feels.

We're not surprised by these heartbreaking statistics because we listen to the stories young guys tell us every day. And the youth who come to events are likely to be the most connected and educated of their peers. They carry what they learn back to groups of friends eager for real information about sex and sexuality not filtered through a school system's censors. That's not apathy — that's a need for accurate, nonjudgmental sex education.

We at Q Action would like to invite all of our community — no matter your age — to join In Our Prime (the Stop AIDS Project program for older men) for a community forum in October. But don't wait until then. Visit our Web site (www.qaction.org). Drop by our Castro Street office. We want to hear your coming out and survival stories.

We just need you to listen back. We have stories to tell, too, and they're not finished. They're barely even begun. ▼

Antonio Kruger and Roberto Ordeñana are coordinators for Q Action, a program of the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Banking on homophobes

I wonder how many customers of the Bay View Bank on Castro are aware that this bank is running commercials on KSFO radio station. This is the station that airs Dr. Laura's show, as well as other extreme right-wing homophobes such as Rush Limbaugh and Michael Savage. Does our community want to support businesses that spend advertising dollars promoting harmful rhetoric and misinformation about us? Just asking.

Bob Shultz
San Francisco

Where was Tom?

Wayne Friday's neglect to include Tom Ammiano on his list of the most popular people in the Pride Parade is mind-boggling [*Our Man Friday, July 4*].

I walked near Tom's contingent the length of the parade route and the cheers, shouts, and good wishes he received were a testament to his continuing and growing popularity among the gay community and our straight friends.

If Mr. Friday is writing a political column, as opposed to a gossip column, he needs to print the truth even when it doesn't serve his conservative political goals.

Dennis Seely
San Francisco

Candidate's stand matters

Thank you for the superb interview with District 8 supervisorial candidate Bevan Duff [*"Citing budget deficit, Duff spurns public financing for supe race," July 11*]. His stance on campaign funding, both in terms of voluntary limits for individual contributions and rejecting the use of public funds is admirable and one I hope the other candidates adopt. Given San Francisco's budget crisis, taxes should be used to feed seniors, provide day care for children of working parents, offer sustained substance abuse treatment, or retain workers performing needed tasks before they are used to finance individual political ambitions.

Gustavo Serina
San Francisco

No therapist needed

Seth Watkins [*"How am I supposed to be proud?" June 27*] doesn't really need a therapist to tell him what his problem is. In his article consisting of 12 short paragraphs, he uses the words "I," "me," "my," and "myself" a full 97 times.

Don't take my word for it; you can count them.

Mr. Watkins seems to be a very good guy, and his activism is sincerely to be applauded, but he would probably be much happier if he could just get over himself a little bit.

Too much introspection is not always advised; it can be messy in there.

Everett Reeves
San Francisco

City Clinic responds

Richard Broussard's letter [*Mailstrom, July 11*] raises several important issues about patient care at City Clinic and syphilis in San Francisco.

Since 1938 City Clinic has been San Francisco's only STD clinic providing free or low cost care to all residents of San Francisco. It has an international reputation as a center of excellence in clinical care and research. Strict adherence to patient confidentiality is the cornerstone on which all clinical care at City Clinic is provided. All patients will be seen by a clinician alone so that issues relating to sexually transmitted infections and/or other personal matters may be discussed by the patient in absolute safety and security. While some couples feel they have nothing to hide from one another and wish to be evaluated together, long experience has taught clinicians at City Clinic that more often than not couples wanting to be seen together do so at the behest of one partner who has an interest in controlling the content of the interaction. If after the initial consultation, a patient would like to discuss his or her findings with the partner and the clinician, that can be arranged. Furthermore, medical records cannot be accessed by any person or agency without the expressed written consent of the patient nor are subpoenaed records released to the courts. Without these many safeguards City Clinic could not continue to function as it does.

The diagnosis of syphilis is usually straightforward. There are situations however, when unusual complaints, a past syphilis infection, or inadequate documentation of treatment complicate the picture. Unfortunately, the current syphilis diagnostic tests are basically the same ones that were developed about 100 years ago. Syphilis diagnostics have not benefited from the revolution in biotechnology that have proved useful for other diseases. Many times these tests give correct results right away; other times clinicians may need to wait a few days for the results of confirmatory tests and other relevant clinical information. On

rare occasions clinicians have to recommend treatment with incomplete information and in these cases will often choose to treat to benefit the patient and potentially public health. In any event when it comes to diagnosing syphilis, there are no more experienced clinicians in the diagnosis and management of syphilis than those at City Clinic.

Although syphilis is no longer the scourge it was in the pre-penicillin era, it may still have serious consequences. In HIV-negative persons with syphilis, the initial chancre or sore may act as an entry way for HIV. In HIV-positive persons syphilis may cause serious symptoms such as fevers, headaches, night sweats, weight loss, and fatigue that may go undiagnosed and lead to expensive, time consuming evaluations. In addition syphilis may increase the HIV viral load and affect the eyes, ears, and brain resulting in permanent visual loss, deafness, seizures, and strokes.

In 1998 there were 10 cases of early syphilis among gay men. In 2001 there were 183 cases and by the end of June this year, there were already more than 200.

It is incumbent upon those San Franciscans at risk for syphilis to educate themselves and their doctors about the signs and symptoms of syphilis and protect themselves by adopting healthy behaviors such as regular STD testing and condom use.

City Clinic is committed to assuring a sexually healthy community with partnerships based on trust and responsibility. We welcome further opportunities to educate the community and providers. For more information on syphilis, please see the City Clinic Web site at www.dph.sf.ca.us/sfcityclinic or www.healthypenis2002.org.

Jeffrey D. Klausner, MD, MPH
Medical Director, San Francisco City Clinic

Joseph Engelman, MD, MPH
Senior Physician, San Francisco City Clinic

Prime Timers' sale a success

The third annual Porn Sale was held on Saturday, June 15, to benefit the San Francisco Prime Timers—the former G40+ Club. Thanks to your cooperation in publishing our letter seeking donations, we received contributions not only from all around the Bay Area, but cases of porn were received from as far away as Nebraska and Texas.

As a result of the generosity and cooperation of everybody, the treasury of the San Francisco Prime Timers will increase by \$1,700. In addition, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society received over 400 items (each year they come the day before the sale to take anything that will help their collection), and the Stop AIDS Project received over 20 items that were used as raffle prizes at the Geezers' Ball. Non-porn that was donated was passed on; the Castro Lions received about two dozen items for its leather auction, and the Community Thrift store received 150 books. (We seem to have become a conduit for donations to other community organizations.)

In addition to thanks to you, and to all those who donated and who came and bought, special thanks to Carlos Delgado, John McCoy, Ken Nimmo, Warren van Eck, and Hank Wilson, who were there and gave their time to help, and to Tortuga Bi Liberty, craigslist, Rink, and the Stop AIDS Project, which helped publicize the sale.

Next year's sale will be on Saturday, June 14, 2003, but donations may be made throughout the year. For more information, call (415) 552-1997.

Arthur Hurwith
San Francisco Prime Timers
San Francisco

Love without borders

If U.S. queers want to help Palestinians, they could support the work of Ms. Haneen Maikay, Palestinian outreach coordinator at Jerusalem Open House, that ancient city's first and only LGBT community center. JOH has included both Jews and Palestinians ever since it started in 1995, and recently hosted the first-ever gathering of Palestinian queers (*XtraWest*, June 13, Vancouver).

On June 7, JOH organized Jerusalem's very first queer parade, with 5,000 participants celebrating "love without borders." Please visit their Web site (www.gay.org.IL/joh/eng/).

For Haneen Maikay and her brothers and sisters, love transcends nationality, even during wartime.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Send letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed. E-mail letters are accepted at BARpaper@aol.com. Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and also include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space.

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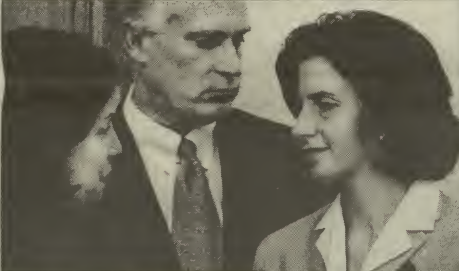

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What is the history of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'?

by Paula Martinac

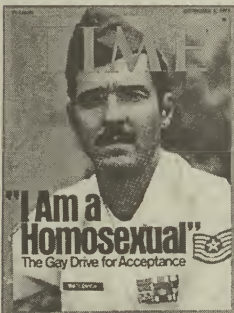
July 19, 1993 (nine years ago this month): President Bill Clinton announces the Department of Defense's new policy on gays in the military.

The controversial issue of gays and lesbians serving in the U.S. military didn't start with Bill Clinton, although his administration's policies escalated it to a new level of importance and urgency.

Before World War I, the military had no set policy regarding gays and lesbians serving in its ranks, but discharges for homosexual conduct occurred nonetheless. After the war, with the proliferation of psychological studies on sexual "inversion," the Articles of War added consensual sodomy as criminal behavior. By the start of World War II, gay and lesbian recruits were routinely weeded out during the induction process for "psychiatric" reasons.

But as the war effort – and the need for soldiers – grew, the military relaxed the ban, and many gays and lesbians were allowed to enlist and serve. It wasn't until the war was winding down that the military once again began to enforce its anti-gay regulations, issuing dishonorable "blue" discharges to many gay service members. Crackdowns on gay and lesbian personnel continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

As part of the gay rights movement that flourished in the 1970s, a number of gay soldiers, beginning with Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, mounted unsuccessful legal chal-



Sgt. Leonard Matlovich on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1975.

lenges to the dismissal of homosexuals from the military. Then, in 1981, the Department of Defense wrote into its policy that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service," requiring discharge for any person "who engages in, desires to engage in, or intends to engage in homosexual acts."

During the 1980s, more queer service members tried to fight the military's policy. There were a few

high-profile successes, like that of Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom, who in 1987 was reinstated by the U.S. Army Reserves after a 10-year battle. Within the gay community, more activists began calling for an end to the ban.

Then came Candidate Clinton. He first broached the subject of lifting the ban at a speech at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in the fall of 1991. As the Democratic front-runner in May 1992, Clinton made a historic announcement at a gay campaign fundraiser in Hollywood.

After being introduced by David Mixner – an out gay man who advised Clinton on gay-rights issues – Clinton vowed that, if elected, he would take swift action against the DOD's anti-gay policy. Although the promise didn't raise much debate during the campaign, it did help garner Clinton a wealth of gay contributions over the next several months and the support of an overwhelming majority of gay voters in November.

Just days after his inauguration in January 1993, President Clinton issued a memorandum instructing Defense Secretary Les Aspin to draft an executive order ending anti-gay discrimination in the military. The memo was met with fierce opposition from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, especially General Colin Powell, the chair; Senator Sam Nunn (D-Georgia), chair of the Armed Services Committee; and numerous members of both houses of Congress. Aspin urged Clinton to delay the order, and the president quickly announced a six-month review period, in which there would be a temporary suspension of gay discharges and military officials could not question recruits about their sexual orientation.

Throughout the spring of 1993, Congress held a series of heated hearings on the military issue. Those in favor of lifting the ban often compared the issue to racial segregation in the military before 1948. Opponents held that allowing gays to serve openly would be "prejudicial to good order and discipline" because of the military's "close quarters." One witness – Colonel Fred Peck, whose own son was gay – said he would never want his son to serve for fear "his life would be in jeopardy from his own troops." The sensational press the hearings garnered helped stir up public opinion against gays serving in the military.

In the face of such strong opposition, the Clinton administration abandoned the idea of lifting the ban completely, although the president was adamant that the revised policy be conduct-based – "not what they are, but what they do," as Aspin explained to the Armed Ser-

vices Committee. In July of that year, Clinton announced the compromise he and Nunn had reached, a policy whose guiding principles had become known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue."

Under this plan, gay people could ostensibly serve in the military – as they always had – as long as they didn't mention their sexual orientation. No one in the military could ask them about their sexuality, which was considered a "personal and private matter." Only "homosexual conduct" could lead to discharge.

But that fall, Congress codified the policy in the Defense Authorization Act, using much different language. The new law weakened the distinction between homosexual status and conduct and asserted that homosexuality is an "unacceptable risk ... to unit cohesion." Further, the new legislation made it impossible to change the military policy by executive decree.

Since that time, gay discharges have, ironically, increased. Many of these discharges have occurred within the first months of service. This may be in part because gay recruits realize they're facing a hostile environment and "tell" to be released from service, since harassment of gay – or presumed gay – service members has also risen since 1993. The beating death of Private First Class Barry Winchell by a fellow soldier in 1999 drew public attention to an alarming level of anti-gay harassment that was going unchecked by military officials.

Soon after Winchell's murder, Clinton himself pronounced "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" a failure. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at P0column@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Halley, Janet E. 1999. *Don't: A Reader's Guide to the Military's Anti-Gay Policy*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

Kavanagh, Kay. 1995. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Deception Required, Disclosure Denied." In *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* 1: 142-160.

Shiltz, Randy. 1993. *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

East Bay Pride

◀ page 4

Williamson; the urban music stage, with Cece Peniston, Chance, and others; and the alternative stage, with Tribe 8, Pansy Division, and other heavier sounds. More than 100 booths, arts and crafts exhibitors, and vendors will line the surrounding streets, showcasing Oakland's "DiversCi-

ty" in all its queer colors.

There will be an admission charge to the festival, but King said the amount has not yet been determined. He also said that discounts for advance ticket purchases would be available and that this year, the organization hopes to allow people to purchase tickets through its Web site.

Events following Pride Day include a huge women's dance called "Vibe" on Sunday, September 1;

the Berkeley Pride Brunch on September 2; and an evening of roller coasters and attractions September 6 at Six Flags Marine World, which has been rented for Pride's closing party.

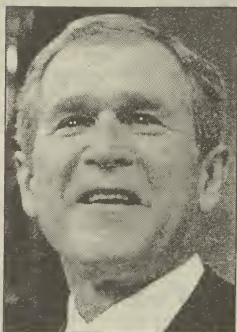
Of course, all of these activities would not be possible without the necessary volunteers and donations. To find out how to get involved in East Bay Pride, call (510) 663-3980, or visit www.eastbaypride.org for more information. ▼

POLITICS

Corporate scandals worry Republicans

by Wayne Friday

Now it seems pretty clear, despite his chief press flack's denials, that **George W. Bush** himself dabbled in illegal insider trading back in 1990, when he was sitting on the board of directors of Harken Energy. Bush bailed out of the Texas-based company, where he served as a director, by selling 212,000 shares at \$4 per share only a couple of months before it was announced publicly that the company had hidden losses, thereby leading to Harken's stock plummeting to \$1 per share. Bush realized a hefty \$848,000 profit from the stock sale.



President George W. Bush

Bush, many will recall, claimed straight-faced, that he had no advance knowledge that Harken was in financial trouble and headed for the skids (say what? What the hell do they pay these board members \$300,000 a year for?).

Further, Bush failed to report the sale of his stock in a timely fashion as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission, but instead, notified the SEC some eight months after the federal deadline.

First, Bush claimed that the papers were actually filed on time, but "must have been lost" by the SEC people. When that was proven untrue, Bush then blamed the failure to file on "mistakes by attorneys at Harken." Well, okay. A SEC investigation into the case quickly concluded that Bush had done nothing illegal, although the SEC general counsel at the time, one **James Doty**, just happened to have earlier represented Bush during his purchase of the Texas Rangers baseball team – a deal, that, coincidentally, Bush financed in part with the proceeds of his Harken stock dump.

Skeptical? Shame upon you. Dubya campaigned on a program of bringing "morality and honesty" to Washington, didn't he?

And, the news continues to get worse for the administration. Just last week a watchdog group in Washington announced that it was filing a shareholders lawsuit against Vice President **Dick Cheney** and his former employer, Halliburton Company (Cheney was its CEO), claiming the company engaged in accounting fraud. Halliburton is now under investigation by the SEC; the commission is looking into Halliburton's accounting methods for reporting cost overruns on construction jobs.

Cheney, predictably, knows nothing of any Halliburton wrongdoing; he received a going

away package from Halliburton of \$14 million when he left to join the Bush election ticket in 2000.

We've got all these companies with top executives who've allegedly cooked the books – Enron, (the company has been accused of screwing over California energy users), WorldCom, ImClone, and the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, with other firms to come (this is only the tip of the iceberg, folks) – and then President Bush, feeling the political heat, went to Wall Street last week trying to look serious while calling for "a crackdown on corporate America" and vowing to put an end to "the days of cooking the books" by corporate executives and their cover-up auditors.

Just what the country needed – Insider Trader Number One going to Wall Street, dispensing a lot of political hot air on corporate responsibility. The result? The stock market tanked.

And who are the voters, as well as the thousands who have lost their jobs and their retirement savings, likely to blame in November? To be sure, the backlash ultimately threatens the Republican Party. It's the party in power and the party most closely aligned with big business. Also, Republican big business leaders helped propel Bush into the White House, thereby putting him in charge of organizations like the SEC, and no amount of posturing on Wall Street by the president is likely to help out the GOP (Greedy Old Party?) that is headed by Bush, Cheney, **Karl Rove**, and Company.

Look for Democrats to make gains in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on November 5.

Politics and people

And in California, more questions are surfacing about the business dealings of GOP gubernatorial candidate **Bill Simon**. Last week his name surfaced on a list of several millionaires under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service for participating in tax shelters that the IRS considers questionable, at best. The IRS is filing lawsuits as part of an attempt to rein in shelters that officials estimate annually cost the government tens of billions of dollars in lost revenue. Last week, Simon again refused to release his tax returns for the years he has resided in California. Democratic Governor **Gray Davis**, of course, wasted no time in blasting his GOP rival for not releasing his returns. Davis pointed out that he, as well as his two Republican predecessors, **George Deukmejian** and **Pete Wilson**, have always made their tax returns available and said, "The IRS documents raise serious and troubling questions about whether Mr. Simon has been improperly using shelters to avoid paying taxes."

Supervisor **Mark Leno**, accompanied by good friend, former Ambassador **James Hormel**, spent a couple of days recently on the East Coast, where Leno supporters in New York City and Washington, D.C. put together fundraisers for the assemblyman-to-be to help Leno retire his campaign debt from the primary.

Incidentally, a new Field Poll released last week shows that California voters have a more favorable view of their state Legislature. In a turnabout from a survey taken in April, more state voters have a favorable view of the Legislature, 45 percent to 36 percent. The Field Poll also showed that Governor Gray Davis's job rating has shown some improvement since April, when 54 percent rated him negatively. Voters overall gave Davis positive ratings for efforts to "prevent terrorism and improve the state's security," with 44 percent saying he was doing a "very good" or "good" job in that category. They also gave the governor high marks for working to protect the environment and reduce crime. The latest Field Poll (released July 11) has Davis leading his conservative GOP opponent, **Bill Simon**, by a

seven-point margin: 41 percent to 34 percent, with 16 percent undecided, and 9 percent for other candidates.

One of the most closely-watched, bitterly contested congressional races in the country is in California's 18th District where Assemblyman **Dennis Cardoza** (D-Merced) is slightly favored to defeat state Senator **Dick Monteith** (R-Modesto) to replace outgoing Representative **Gary Condit** (D-Ceres). Monteith backers are calling in the GOP heavy hitters like **veep Dick Cheney**, House Speaker **Dennis Hastert** (R-Illinois), and Majority Whip **Tom DeLay** (R-Texas). Cardoza is getting help from House Minority Leader **Dick Gephardt** (D-Missouri), Senator **Joe Lieberman** (D-Connecticut), and California Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D), who is very popular in the San Joaquin Valley district. Feinstein and Governor Gray Davis are also reportedly urging former President **Bill Clinton** to make an appearance in the district on Cardoza's behalf. Voter registration records in the 18th District show Democrats holding roughly a 50 percent to 39 percent advantage over the GOP.

Janet gets jiggy: Taking a cue from *Saturday Night Live*'s "Janet Reno Dance Party" skit, Reno, the former attorney general in the Clinton administration and current Democratic candidate for governor in Florida, is hosting a rave fundraiser tomorrow night at Leval, the trendy club on Miami's South Beach. Expected at the highly publicized event are **Damon** and **Marlon Wayans**, **Ziggy Marley**, **Kim Basinger**, **Matt Damon**, **Elton John**, **Rosie O'Donnell**, **Martin Sheen**, and other celebs.

Gotta wonder how widespread this practice is – the chair of the New Mexico Republican Party, **John Dendahl**, said last week that he was approached by a Republican Party figure out of Washington who asked him to offer the state Green Party \$100,000 to run candidates in two congressional districts in an effort to divide the Democratic vote. Dendahl said he conveyed the offer to officials of the New Mexico Green Party, who initially showed some interest, but ultimately declined the offer.

In Idaho Falls, Idaho, a county

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Much ado
about patriotism

by Paula Martinac

Nationalism is reaching a fevered pitch in this country, even though September 11 is 10 months behind us. In the recent flap over the Pledge of Allegiance, for example, even some of our most liberal politicians rushed to attack the court decision, thereby proving themselves "true patriots." But this kind of simple-minded approach to the concept of "patriotism" threatens to silence those who aren't in the political mainstream or, like gay people, are still without civil rights.

It's funny that gay people can still be patriotic—we pay taxes but can't legally marry or serve openly in the military. Still, after the terrorist attacks, many gay publications featured American flags on their covers; flags adorned our public meeting spaces. Gay community fundraisers and festivities throughout the past 10 months have honored the victims and heroes of 9/11.

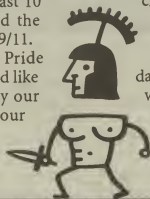
In particular, gay Pride season this year seemed like a good time to display our national pride, too—our marches took on themes like Washington, D.C.'s "United in Pride."

Boston's "Proud of Our Heroes," and Dayton's "True Colors, Shining Through." Gilbert Baker, who created the first rainbow flag in 1978, appeared at the New York march in Star-and-Stripes drag. And at another annual New York Pride event, a marching band that in past years had played mostly queer anthems like "Over the Rainbow" regaled the crowd—which included some folks wearing Old Glory T-shirts—with "America, the Beautiful."

At the same time, however, many of us on the left are grappling with how we can be supportive of our country but also maintain a skeptical awareness about our government's activities. Three-fourths of gay people didn't vote for Bush, and many of us were disturbed by the final outcome of the 2000 "election." Since September, we've had to watch an inept president basically luck out—Bush's ability to show compassion and a semblance of control during a national tragedy bumped his approval rating up to 90 percent last fall (it hovers around 70

percent today). From a position of popularity, his administration is helping move the country to the right—not a comfortable turn of events for gay people and other "outsiders," as history has shown.

Now even referring to 9/11 as a lucky break for Bush makes me a little nervous. The so-called Patriot Act has extended the powers of the Department of Justice in a way that's unnerving for anyone who questions government policy. Recently, CBS News ran a segment on leftist San Franciscans who had felt the new wide reach of the FBI. One retired phone company worker—I picked up gaydar, but his sexual orientation wasn't mentioned—had loudly criticized the war in Afghanistan while working out at the gym. A few days later G-men were knocking at his door; some good patriot had

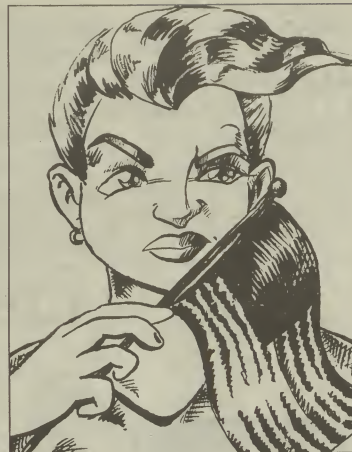


Lesbian Notions

reported his "suspicious" views. A female anti-war activist also got a visit from FBI agents who thought she might be familiar with Muslim extremist men—as if simply being against the war in Afghanistan meant sympathy for terrorists. Ironically, the woman turned out to be a Jewish lesbian, which the agents had somehow neglected to find out in advance.

Just as worrisome as increased government surveillance is the fact that Americans are defining "patriotism" very narrowly these days—not as "love for and devotion to one's country," as Webster's simply states it, but, to borrow our popular president's words, in a "you're-either-with-us-or-against-us" way. "Patriotism" is once again a synonym for thinking uncritically.

In the recent Pledge of Allegiance brouhaha, for example, questioning the constitutionality of the words "under God" in a public oath is being equated with treason. The man who brought the lawsuit has received death threats.



Christine Smith

But Francis Bellamy, the Baptist minister who in 1892 wrote the Pledge (without the reference to God), was a socialist who believed that restructuring the economy would be the best route to "liberty and justice for all." Today, he'd be dismissed as a crackpot, since socialism has long been high up on the government's list of "un-American" political viewpoints.

Sadly, "patriotism" has become a kind of intellectual terrorism to keep us scared—and behaving like good citizens. Lesbian comic Kate Clinton told the *Boston Globe* recently that these days her audiences (which are largely gay) seem "relieved" when she sticks to gay jokes instead of venturing into political commentary. And many writers and celebrities have opted not to sign a statement, currently circulating in artistic and academic circles, that protests the government's post-September 11 policies. Even though they agree with the petition, they're afraid of jeopardizing their careers—code for fear of blacklisting.

"It's become dangerous," the Reverend Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State told CNN recently, "to be anything but what the government tells you to be." Unless we reclaim "patriotism" as the right to think for ourselves, then the terrorists really have won. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

magistrate last week ruled that a gay father must stop living with his partner or lose visitation rights with his children. The ruling may set a legal precedent for Idaho courts. The state's courts haven't ruled on the rights of gay parents. Theron McGriff asked the Idaho Supreme Court to review the magistrate's decision to award full custody of his two school-age children to his former wife.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced this week that it has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of the Texas "Homosexual Conduct" law and declare it unconstitutional. The case,

Lawrence and Garner v. Texas, presents the high court with two independent constitutional claims, one based on equal protection and another based on privacy. The case arises from two Texas men who were arrested and convicted for having consensual sex in a private residence.

Mike Carmody, a reader who works for AT&T, sent this one in: At AT&T's annual shareholder's meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, last week, shareholders sponsored several proposals. Among them was one "to amend AT&T's Equal Opportunity Statement to eliminate sexual preference or orientation." Thankfully, the proposal failed, with people voting 151 million shares (6 percent) for the proposal, while others voted 2.3 billion shares (94 percent) against

the idea. Thanks, Mr. Carmody.

My "Quote of the Week" comes from Republican state Senator Maurice Johannessen of Redding, who was ousted by his fellow GOP members from the Republican Caucus for providing the Democratic side with the lone GOP vote needed to pass a state budget. Johannessen: "Maybe the Republican Caucus should have cast one more vote before they left town and voted themselves hypocrites of the year."

Finally, I'd like to extend my best wishes for a speedy recovery to ace political consultant Robert Barnes, who is ill and in the hospital.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

Fashion police

by Jane Warner

500 block of Sanchez, July 13, 2:34 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a man with his pants off ringing the doorbell of a residence. When officers arrived, they saw a man standing on the door step wearing a white T-shirt, white underwear, and black socks. The officers drove down the street and made a U-turn. When they came back, however, the man was gone. The officers got out of their car and heard the ringing of a cell phone. They followed the sounds of the rings, climbed the staircase, and found the man hiding underneath the stairwell trying to answer his cell phone. When the officers asked what happened to his clothes, the man, who smelled of alcohol and had slurred speech, laughed. The 27-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for trespassing and being drunk in public.

Bee-yatch

The Cafe, 2367 Market, July 13, 12:50 a.m.: A group of friends was dancing together on the dance floor when suddenly another man started to insult them, saying they were fat and ugly.

"Who are you calling ugly?"

one of the men shot back. "You've got more makeup on than any bitch inside here."

Angry at the comment, the man smashed a glass tumbler against the other man's forehead, leaving a large gash. The suspect, described as a white male with bleached blond hair and heavy blue eyeliner, wearing a light green tank top and black pants, ran out of the

club. Responding officers found the suspect at 16th and Castro and took him to Mission Station where he was booked for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Update on injured officer

San Francisco Police Officer Nick Ferrando, who was critically injured last month in the car accident that killed openly gay Officer

Jon C. Cook, has been moved from San Francisco General Hospital and is recuperating at a rehabilitation center. Ferrando, who suffered two broken legs and severe head trauma, is improving at a rapid pace. According to his father, who is also a San Francisco Police officer, he is able to feed himself and walk a few steps on his own. Nick also spoke for the first time recently, asking his dad, "What happened to me?"

Although most of his bills are being paid by the department and health insurance, the family has

rented a hotel room near the rehabilitation center to be close to their son. Any donations to offset this cost would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent in Nick Ferrando's name, care of the San Francisco Police Officer's Association, 510 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.



Homo-panic murderer gets 12 years

by Zak Szymanski

In a scene so dramatic that it couldn't have been rehearsed, the common law wife of a slain man instructed her husband's killer to read several Bible passages, informed him he would not go to heaven, then forgave him in an emotional embrace in the middle of his sentencing hearing at San Francisco Superior Court last Friday, July 12.

Judge Philip Moscone gave

Phillip Adkinson the maximum sentence — 12 years — for his voluntary manslaughter conviction for the death of Todd Peterson.

On June 12, 1999, police arrived in response to a 911 hang-up call at Peterson's apartment to find him dead from multiple stab wounds. Adkinson, the only other person in the apartment, refused to let police inside. He had a single stab wound which was later found to be self-inflicted.

According to Community United Against Violence, Peterson was a man described by his wife, Julie Immer, as "a radical humanitarian... who defied labels of gay or straight." He was last seen at the gay bar My Place, and he met up with Adkinson before returning home. Adkinson employed a "homosexual panic" defense for

the killing, but Immer was adamant that Adkinson should receive the longest sentence possible.

During Friday's hearing, Immer repeatedly confronted Adkinson and demanded that he answer to her.

"I was supposed to go over there that night. What if I had showed up? Would you have killed me, too, Phillip?" she asked, to which Adkinson replied, "No."

"To this day I still don't know what happened that night," Adkinson told Immer. "I have to live with it for the rest of my life."

Adkinson then described his suicide attempts in jail and his desire to talk to Immer during his murder trial.

"What did you want to say to me?" she asked.

"That I'm sorry," Adkinson replied.

"Then stand up," said Immer, who asked Judge Moscone permission for Adkinson to be removed from his handcuffs. "I forgive you Phillip. This is the greatest gift I can give to you. Todd and I were non-violent people. Come. I set you free."

The two hugged and sobbed before Adkinson was ordered back into his cuffs, and Moscone delivered his judgment.

"With exception to the remorse shown today," said Moscone, "I find no mitigating circumstances."

Citing Adkinson's "violence, cruelty, and callousness," Moscone imposed 11 years with the addition of one year for the use of a weapon in Peterson's death. ▼

Congress takes up second drug bill

by Joe Dignan

How was your Fourth? Did you have fun? Did you host a barbecue? Um, did one of your guests smoke a joint? Are you sure?

Be sure next time.

Because if they do, under a new federal law proposed by Senator Joe Biden (D-Delaware), the police could seize your house, impound your bank accounts, and fine you up to \$250,000 — without charging you criminally or giving you the right to a jury trial.

The bill, S2633, which just passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is headed for the Senate floor, would make property owners responsible for drug use in their homes or businesses.

Called the RAVE Act, short for Reducing America's Vulnerability to Ecstasy, it is mainly targeted at promoters who rent their property out for dance parties. But according to the bill's language, anyone who permits drug use in any place that they control or own, for profit or not, is criminally liable.

"Most raves are havens for illicit drug use," said Biden. "Enacting the RAVE Act will help prosecute the promoters who seek to profit from exploiting and endangering young lives."

The bill is a rewriting of the federal "crack house" statutes, which Biden helped draft in the 1980s and were designed to make landlords responsible if they owned the property where drug dealers set up crack houses or shooting galleries.

The Drug Enforcement Administration and local authorities have been trying to use those existing statutes to prosecute rave promoters, but they haven't been very successful.

In August 1998 a 17-year-old

girl, Jillian Kirkland, died from a drug overdose after attending a rave at the State Palace Theater in New Orleans, prompting prosecutors to begin an investigation in which they managed to buy 45 hits of ecstasy and five other illegal pills from low-level dealers at the State Palace.

In 2001, they finally charged the owners of the theater — a venue which presented all sorts of events, from the Dave Matthews Band to tapings of the *Regis and Kathie Lee* show to an "Attack of the 50 foot Raver Zombies" party — with operating a crack house. But the prosecution couldn't prove that the owners, Robert and Brian Brunet, had anything to do with the drug use. The case ended in a stalemate, and the Brunets finally agreed to a plea bargain.

Prosecutors in Florida tried again, using the crack house statutes, later in the year at Club La Vela in Panama City Beach. Prosecutors couldn't find any actual drugs, so they relied on showing the jury Blow Pops, gum, and glow sticks, which they had seized in a raid on the club, and stated that those were drug paraphernalia. They also showed the jury a picture of a man giving another man a massage, which they had found on the club's Web site, and introduced this as evidence of drug use.

The jury in that case returned after two hours with a not-guilty verdict.

Because prosecutors have been frustrated by not being able to stop the large-scale flow of ecstasy into this country, and haven't been able to effectively prosecute the small-time dealers who do business in clubs, in both the New Orleans and the Florida cases they turned to trying to shut down rave venues and prosecute their owners.

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Space is still available in many Fall Semester 2002 credit and noncredit courses starting August 19th at City College of San Francisco's Castro/Valencia Campus. Listed below is just a sampling of day, evening and weekend classes offered at 1220 Noe Street and 1800 Market Street. Credit courses are only \$11 per unit for all California residents. Noncredit courses are FREE.

SAMPLING OF FALL 2002 CREDIT COURSES

Course Title	CRN#	Days	Times	Location/Room
American Government	74673	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe TBA
Career Success/Life Planning	73556	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 117
Cosmic Evolution	74077	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Feature Writing	72986	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 304
French 1 (Beg.)	70071	MW	6:30-9 P.M.	1220 Noe 312
French 3B (Cont. Interm.)	74704	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 306
French 4 (Cont. Interm.)	75264	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 301
German (Practical)	73390	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 205
GLBT Comm. of Color in U.S.	74318	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 6
History/Homosexuality in Film	75249	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 110
Holistic Health Practices	70979	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 201
Improvisation for Actors	75484	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe AUD
Internet Journalism	75563	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Issues in Lesbian Relationships	75250	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 307
Italian 2B (Cont. Elem.)	75272	M	6-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 301
Japanese (Elem.)	72647	Sat	9:30-12:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 307
Jazz History	74197	Sat	9:30-12:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 234
Lesbian/Gay American History	70086	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 102
Lesbian/ Gay Culture & Society	70079	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Linguistic Anthropology (Intro)	70205	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 12
Men's Health Issues	74754	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 212
News Writing & Reporting	74632	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Poetry for the People	74856	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 308
Psychology/Sexual Minorities	75251	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 212
Queer TV: TV & Gay Identity	75510	M	6-9:15 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Reading and Composition	70068	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 310
Russian 1B (Elem.)	70105	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 312
Russian 2A (Cont. Elem.)	72674	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 201
Russian Culture	75271	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 203
Sex/Gender in Am. Society	70108	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 107
Small Business Ownership/Opn.	72717	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Spreadsheets/Business/Excel	75441	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Storytelling	74665	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 102
2D Animation for Multimedia	74860	TTh	3-6 P.M.	1800 Market 306
University Read/Composition	73292	TTh	10:30-12 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Univ. Read/Composition (Adv.)	70068	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 310
Vocal Production/Audition	75628	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe Aud
Women and Film	70460	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 110
Women in the Arts	70091	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 307

SAMPLING OF FALL 2002 FREE NONCREDIT COURSES

American Sign Language I	81162	T	6:30-9 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Computers for Older Adults	83080	T	12-3 P.M.	1800 Market 306
ESL 5-8 (Intermediate)	83201	M-Th	6:30-9 P.M.	1220 Noe 1A
Internet for Older Adults	83082	W	1-4 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Understanding Changing Times	83070	S	1-3 P.M.	1800 Market 304

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DPH AIDS program in Santa Clara thrives under new leadership

by Zak Szymanski

It wouldn't be news in San Francisco, but just down the Peninsula, a couple of individuals at the Santa Clara Department of Public Health are making history. For the first time, the department's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program is being led by two openly gay men.

The program director is Kevin Hutchcroft, a former legislator in Oklahoma and an openly HIV-positive healthcare advocate, and the program's prevention manager is Clark Williams, who did sex worker outreach in Baltimore before heading west. They are 38 and 36 years old, respectively, and were hired at around the same time at the end of last year. Both see their open sexuality as beneficial to doing their jobs, and both have big plans for the agency as it moves through the new millennium and a new frontier of AIDS.

"We are California's fourth largest county," said Williams, "and as such, we have a lot of diversity. Our program was a little outdated in that it wasn't necessarily targeting the communities that are at the greatest risk. So what I've been doing is redirecting a lot of our initiatives to focus on Latinos and our new migrant communities, identifying barriers to service such as language and geography, and improving access to testing."

Williams credits working under Hutchcroft with his ability to reevaluate and implement better prevention programs.

"I was a little hesitant about making the move into a government agency, but working for Kevin has made it a terrific experience for me," said Williams. "Although I just arrived, other people in the department who have been here a long time keep talking about what a wonderful opportunity this



Kevin Hutchcroft & Clark Williams

is for change. He's a great guy to work for, and he wants to make sure everybody has a chance to add their contribution to his efforts."

Hutchcroft himself harbors a unique history: at the age of 22 he became one of the youngest state legislators ever to be elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He was not yet openly gay, or even all that attentive to his personal life, but he accomplished a lot during his six years of service, including introducing an HIV prevention education bill that became the first such state mandate in the country. He then went on to become a program director at Oklahoma's state health department, where he worked from 1993-2000. His HIV-positive status, he said, "lends credibility to the work I do."

Originally hired for Williams's position, Hutchcroft took over his current position a few months after it became vacant (Williams was hired shortly thereafter). Hutchcroft's immediate goals, he

said, are to "maintain the integrity of our system of care in the face of budget cuts," which may involve combating a resurgence of the AIDS exceptionalism movement that challenges why AIDS gets so much money when more people die of other diseases.

"I don't like how that issue is framed. Let's not debate which Holocaust is worse," said Hutchcroft of the exceptionalism argument. "HIV is infectious. It's still incurable, and it's still spreading, and in terms of years of productive life lost, HIV is still topping the list. People die young and vital with this disease. Additionally, HIV research is beneficial to treating other diseases. Breakthroughs spill over into other areas like hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted diseases."

Another project of Hutchcroft's is opening an HIV living center for people in Santa Clara County, where HIV-positive individuals can gather for social activities as well as medical appointments, food services, and case management.

All of these goals, he believes, will be well served by his past as a legislator.

"I understand the legislative process and how policy makers arrive at decisions, and it's very similar to the production of sausage," said Hutchcroft. "You just don't want to see it yourself. It's pretty ugly."

He is also excited to be doing his job in an area where discrimination and bias don't override the tasks at hand.

"One of the things I tell people here is they just don't know how good they have it," he said. "I moved here for that reason. To come to an area where gay couples can openly adopt children, where you can actually do something about harassment of kids in schools, it's a totally different environment for me and I can't tell you how happy I am to be here." ▼

Pride petition

◀ page 5

for a number of people. We are looking forward to finding out what people think about it," he said.

So far, most people who have come across the petition are in support of the move, with 76 people already signing in favor of the idea. Reactions vary from supporting the political sentiment of the date change to wanting to bring the Pride Parade back to its original roots of activism.

"Queer pride is as American as mom and apple pie. Let's bring the celebrations together," wrote Oakland resident Chris Cardona.

"I can't think of a better way to make the point that we're American citizens. Plus, this provides a unifying theme to base our costumes upon," wrote San Francisco resident Brian McConnell.

Added San Francisco resident Jason Dewees, "Fog obscures fireworks anyway and maybe this way fewer corporate sponsors would come."

DeVinny said he has received one negative e-mail toward the

suggested date change. And as of Wednesday of this week, only one person registered opposition to the idea in their comments on the petition.

"This is quite a dumb idea. Pride celebrates Stonewall - i.e., late June - plus I go out of town on the 4th of July every year," commented San Francisco resident Aiden Shaw.

There is precedent for moving the Pride date, said Witherington. While most people assume the date is set at the end of June to coincide with the anniversary of Stonewall, that is only partly true.

Because Los Angeles and San Francisco Prides did not want to compete with each other, the two Pride committees previously had an agreement on when each would hold its event. Initially, the two cities agreed to flip-flop the third and fourth weekends of June with each other.

"I think that the only time that really happened was in 1994 and 1995. In 1994 everyone was a week early because it was Stonewall in New York. So Pride was the third weekend on June 19 that year," recalled Witherington. "The following year, for a brief time, was an

agreement with L.A. that L.A. and S.F. would flip-flop and it only really happened in 1995 when S.F. Pride was on June 18. For various reasons it couldn't happen in subsequent years."

Due to that problem, the two cities entered into the fixed-date agreement.

"We basically resolved it with L.A. so that we both had dates that were permanently fixed. It was agreed L.A. Pride would be on the third weekend and S.F. would be on the fourth weekend," said Witherington. "That helps all the other Pride organizations in California work out their dates."

If the Pride Committee did elect to move Pride to the Fourth of July in 2004, Witherington said the board has until next year's Pride to finalize that decision. Pride in 2003 will be held Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, June 29.

In the end, it may come down to siding over the rainbow flag or the American flag.

"I think it would pose an interesting dilemma to City Hall as to which flag they would fly that day. Maybe they would opt to display both," said Witherington. "I guess we would get free fireworks." ▼

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Federal jury convicts California pot grower

by Liz Highleyman

On July 11 a federal jury in Sacramento convicted Bryan James Epis on federal charges of criminal conspiracy and drug manufacturing. The case is the first in which a California medical marijuana prosecution has reached a federal jury.

Epis, a founder of Chico Medical Marijuana Caregivers, said he was a medical cannabis user himself and was growing marijuana for the dispensary's patients in compliance with state law. California voters passed Proposition 215, allowing medical use of cannabis, in 1996. Federal prosecutors allege that Epis was growing marijuana for profit.

Epis faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years. His sentence could be enhanced because his home, where some marijuana plants were grown, is within 1,000 feet of a school. Epis is being held in jail pending sentencing, which is scheduled for late August. Epis's attorney Tony

Serra said the verdict would be appealed.

Serra, Epis, and various witnesses presented testimony concerning the medical use of cannabis, which presiding U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. instructed the jury to disregard.

During the trial the judge took extraordinary measures to ensure that jurors were not influenced by medical marijuana supporters. Jeff Jones of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative was accused of obstructing justice after he allegedly distributed a pamphlet informing jurors of their right to refuse to convict if they believe a law is wrong, a concept known as jury nullification. Jones was arrested briefly and the first impaneled group of jurors was dismissed; Jones's case will be heard in early August.

In addition, Epis faces criminal contempt charges related to a flier about his case that was passed out by demonstrators in front of the courthouse.

The latest verdict adds further weight to California cannabis ad-

vocates' contention that the federal government has stepped up its war against medical marijuana patients and providers in the state. In the past year a number of dispensaries have been shut down or have closed under pressure, and over a dozen patients or providers have been arrested. In May federal district Judge Charles Breyer issued a permanent injunction prohibiting three Northern California medical marijuana clubs from dispensing cannabis.

On Monday, July 15, medical marijuana supporters held a rally at the Sacramento offices of Attorney General Bill Lockyer and Governor Gray Davis, demanding that they defend the decision of California voters.

"This trial is an emblem of injustice," said Steph Sherer, executive director of Americans for Safe Access. "California doesn't want Bryan Epis to spend his next 10 years behind bars - we decided that six years ago. This decision illustrates just how out of touch federal drug policy has become with the American public." ▼

Britain reforms pot laws

by Liz Highleyman

The British government announced last week that it would ease penalties for marijuana use. After months of speculation, Home Secretary David Blunkett told Parliament on July 10 that cannabis would be downgraded from a Class B to a Class C drug, putting it in the same category as anabolic steroids and growth hormones.

In the U.S., cannabis - along with heroin and LSD - remains a Schedule I drug, defined as a substance with high potential for abuse and no recognized medical uses.

The British reclassification was based on the recommendations of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs - a scientific body that provides expert advice on drug policy - and Parliament's Home Affairs Select Committee on Drug Policy. The Select Committee also recommended downgrading ecstasy from Class A to Class B and the establishment of safe injection sites for heroin addicts, neither of which were adopted.

Under the new classification, British marijuana users most likely will not be prosecuted for possessing and using small quantities of the drug. However, the government made clear that while cannabis would be downgraded, it

would not be decriminalized. "[Police] will be able to arrest for possession where public order is threatened or where children are at risk," said Blunkett.

Along with the reclassification, penalties were increased for marijuana dealing. In addition, a new criminal offense was created for supplying drugs to children.

Reaction to the announcement was mixed. Echoing official sentiment in the U.S., Conservative Party member Oliver Letwin said the policy will send "deeply confusing moral messages" and will give "control over cannabis to the drugs dealers, with the police turning away."

The Conservative Party is far from unified on the issue, however. Recently party deputy leader Peter Lilley called for outright legalization of marijuana and sale through licensed outlets.

In recent months the new policy has been under a trial of sorts in Lambeth, a suburb of London, where police have backed off on arresting marijuana users, instead issuing citations.

A report published in 2001 showed that marijuana use was widespread in Britain and had risen in recent years. An estimated 5 million people in that country regularly use the drug. ▼

Drug bill

◀ page 11

Because they couldn't find any significant quantity of drugs in either case, and they were shot down in court trying to prove that drugs were being used, they have returned to Congress, looking for a new level of accountability for property owners, and lower standards of proof as well.

The RAVE bill also provides that prosecutors can charge property owners civilly - rather than criminally - where standards of proof are much lower. In civil cases only a simple majority of the jurors need to find one way or another, unlike a criminal case where the verdict must be unanimous. Because the standard of proof in civil cases is much lower, "a preponderance of evidence" in civil cases versus "beyond a reasonable doubt" in criminal ones, convictions come much more easily.

Because the bill gives prosecutors so much power, it worries civil libertarians.

Graham Boyd, head of the American Civil Liberties Union's Drug Policy Litigation Project, said that the language of the bill is tremendously broad. Not only will

it cover raves and private parties, but he said, "If you control property - any property - and you allow people into that property who use drugs, you could go to prison for a long time. That would seem to cover most college deans and high school principals."

Harm reduction advocates also say that for a promoter to allow groups like Dance Safe to distribute literature about ecstasy use or allow them to test ecstasy pills for safety on site - as they did at San Francisco's Pride celebration - that would be an admission of guilt under Biden's proposed law.

Harm reduction advocates, like Dance Safe's Tim Santimore, fear that Biden's bill, rather than ending raves, will simply push them back underground, into unlicensed venues, like abandoned warehouses, without proper ventilation, running water, or fire exits.

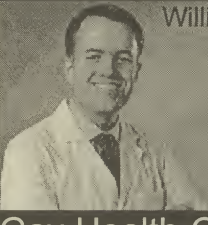
"And then," Santimore said, "it will be more difficult to reach ravers. It will turn back the clock on years of safety measures to protect club patrons and partygoers. People died in fires here in New York. Not being able to reach people with health information has the potential for going back in time." ▼



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Gay promoters revamp city's nightlife scene

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the closing of Club Townsend on July 7, Audrey Joseph brought an end to the storied success of the city's best known dance parties and club venue. But she also opened the door to a new crop of party promoters who are ready to rule over San Francisco's late night gay scene.

From several new weekly parties to replace Universe and Pleasuredome to new monthly and holiday weekend events, the city's gay club scene is undergoing a transformation this summer that many say has been a long time coming.

Probably the person who is best positioned to become the city's premier party host is Gus Bean, who launches his newest venture this weekend. The owner of Gus Presents and the club space at 550 Barneveld, Bean will kick-off Palladium, billed as a "new on-going gay Saturday nightclub experience," at the newly remodeled 525 Harrison.



A flagger at a Pride party.

Formerly the site of The Sound Factory, Palladium is being touted as not just a place to dance but as a rebirth to the city's nightlife scene and a revival of its club heydays back in the 1980s. The new club "will showcase weekly performances by the hottest deejays, sexiest strippers, raunchiest show-offs, midgets, monsters, hustlers and freaks," promises Bean.

The space has a new state-of-the-art sound and lighting system with high-powered laser, and will feature a VIP room guarded over by drag queens Hekina and Juanita Moore. While everyone will make it through the main doors, to gain access to this lounge space partygoers will have to dress to impress Trannyshack's Putanesca.

"People clearly indicated they are ready for something new. I am really trying to go all out with theatrics and mixing of the crowds, with muscle boys and transies all partying in the same room," explained Bean.

The promoter of Metropolis and summer parties at the Russian River, Bean has been proving himself since 1988 when he threw one of his first major parties called Crew at the old Trocadero. Bean, who grew up in the Richmond and was just 21 at the time, used that opportunity as an entry point to the club scene. Over the years he has cultivated a strong following among the circuit crowd.

Now, he hopes to pull in a whole new set of people to Palladium, where the atmosphere will be one part circuit and one part circus.



The scene at one of the Xmen parties in San Francisco.

"I am trying to make it really fun - in three big capital letters," he enthused. "It is still going to have a circuit flavor but I am just trying to expand on that and really take it to the next level with pure fun. I am hoping it is not going to be as predictable as things have been."

Helping to make Bean's vision a reality each Saturday night will be Juan Garcia, a former talent agent who has booked entertainment for high-end corporate events. Garcia, who helped book talent for Club Townsend in the late 1990s, said the city is ready for a return to a more glamorous nighttime scene.

"There is a whole new group of people coming up and going out that aren't familiar with what it used to be like in the early 1980s. Colossus, Toon Town, Spread, Product, Rhythm, all those parties where they were crazy and people really did stuff you couldn't believe. Rhythm had a big five-foot crack baby hanging from the ceiling," recalled Garcia. "For the most part, people got lazy. Gus has been waiting for an opportunity to do the type of nightlife he enjoyed. He wants to revive the club scene to where drag queens, ravers, black boys, circuit people all party in one place."

While his monthly, Saturday night party Metropolis is now on hiatus, Bean said it could come back for holiday weekends or on another night. And as Joseph did with her space on Townsend, Bean is opening up his space at 550 Barneveld to other promoters so they have a chance to produce their own events.

"The wonderful thing about Barneveld is I own the building. It's great to have several different promoters - gay and straight - throw their parties there," said Bean.

Zodiac

Competing with Bean for the Saturday night crowd is Gary Green and his partner, DJ Jeff Chandler, who launched Zodiac on the day of their 18th anniversary last Saturday night. The new weekly party at Studio Z, the newly remodeled Transmission Theater, at 314 11th Street, South of Market, aims "to combine the spiritual freedom of Burning Man and the gay revolution with state of the art design, projection and art installation by some of the city's most underground artists."

To kick off their new party,

Green and Chandler brought in Matmos, Bjork's electronica duo, and pulled in around 600 revelers for opening night.

"We are in such need of nightlife in San Francisco. We always wanted to do parties that are more provocative and where people do have the chance to both dance and do the ordinary club thing but also connect to each other," explained Green. "There are a lot of chill spaces and areas where you can both talk and dance. We want people to be themselves."

The producers, who used to throw the Love Haight Lounge party at Trax in the Haight, have proven themselves over the last two and a half years with their party Reform Skool at The Stud. They recently launched a new Friday night gay party called Star 69 at Pow on Sixth and Mission. And with the success of their Love Haight Lounge Reunion party in March, the duo hopes to revive those parties sometime in the future.

"We have been doing one or two parties every week for five years in bar venues and 18 years in buildings and homes," said Green.

For now they are focused on Zodiac, where guests will be able to get in free during the weeks of their Zodiac sign. While Chandler will be the resident DJ, the two plan on bringing in international DJs to also lay down the tracks each week. This weekend Markie Mark from San Francisco's Wicked Crew will spin.

Although their parties tend to attract a different crowd than the circuit set, their premise is the same as Bean's: open a venue where anyone and everyone can intermingle and be themselves.

"I think the scene is too polarized. You should have an opportunity to go to interesting things," said Green. "In San Francisco, we don't have enough interesting spaces. We are trying to change that."

Other parties

Along those same lines are other party promoters who are hosting weekly and monthly parties. To replace Pleasuredome on Sunday nights, Ivan Cano, the producer of Bump, is launching Gemini, a weekly party to be held at Club Six. And the producers of the monthly Sunday night Xmen events extended their hours this month and are considering launching their own weekly event.

Also in the works is a new des-

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Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

02D-036-3545-1

May 2002

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If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

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 - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegreto® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new

or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- **If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- **If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.¹⁰
- **If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- **If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Castro frame shop owner retires

by Matthew S. Bajko

It's been more than four decades since Yelba Manasek and her husband, Lumir, opened the Manasek frame shop and art supply store on Market Street in the Castro. During that time, the couple saw the neighborhood transform from a mainly straight populace to a gay enclave.

Before the Detour became a gay bar, the drinking establishment next door to her store was called the Missouri Mule, recalled Manasek. And when the proposed new owners wanted to open a gay bar, the property owners first asked their next door neighbors for permission.

"They asked us to sign for a gay bar because they were selling it. We signed because we didn't mind having it in the neighborhood," said Manasek. "That is how it started. It was one of the first bars that was gay."

Over the years, the small store crammed with paints, acrylics, paper, and frames played host to emerging international artists and part-time painters. But after the death of her husband two years ago, Yelba was ready to find a buyer for the shop at 2344 Market Street.

"I was trying to retire for two years already since my husband died. I am happy," said Manasek of closing her store. "I am 70 already."

The couple, she is originally from Nicaragua and her husband was from Czechoslovakia, started their business 45 years ago selling mosaic tiles. Two years later they moved to the current Castro location and changed their inventory to include mainly art supplies and frames.

"Business was very good. We got a lot of customers for so many years," said Manasek. "We had famous customers who started with pencil and paper and finished with paintings in museums."

Once such customer was RC Gorman, a Navajo Indian who during the 1960s was a customer of the couple, recalled Manasek, whose husband was also an artist.

"He did more of his work commissioned. We never had time to paint. I only have two pictures by him," she said.

While business continued to be good, Manasek said she wanted to retire due to her health. She plans to move to her house in Santa Cruz to be closer to her family.

"I was alone with my worker but I just couldn't make it too much anymore. I was closed two months in 2000 because I had a stroke and I was sick," she said. "I have recovered very good. Now I want to retire."

Last month, Manasek sold the store to Greg Bronstein, the owner of several Castro restaurants and The Bar on Castro. Bronstein, who also hopes to purchase the Detour and expand the bar into the frame shop, is still in negotiations for that space.

This weekend he will continue to hold a blowout sale to clear out the store's supplies. Once the space is emptied, he said he probably will lease it out to Bevan Duffy to use as a campaign headquarters. Duffy is running for the District 8 seat on the Board of Supervisors.

"A couple of people want to use it before I develop the space," said Bronstein, who had inquiries over the weekend from a retail phone company and a businessman about using the space. "I'll probably lease it out as I figure out what I want to do with it for the long term. It depends on what happens over the next months."

This Friday and Saturday the store will be open from noon to 6 p.m. for the sale. Depending on business, Bronstein said he may also hold the sale the following weekend.

"We are trying to liquidate and everything is up to 50 percent off," he said. "The more you buy, the more you save." ▼

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Smith lawyer

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you didn't take it personally."

"No, I did not," Warren responded.

Hammer later told Warren: "I agree with you about the excesses of vigilante justice and the idea you should give in to a mob and I never suggested that."

Warren also addressed the criticism that he passed up ample opportunities to throw out the second-degree murder charge before, during, and immediately after the verdict.

"I wish I were a superhuman judge but I am not," Warren said. "I do not have every one of the 60 or 70 thousand cases dealing with second-degree murder at the tip of my tongue or at the tip of my hand. In going through each of these cases, the context and the contour of the legal landscape changed. It does no good to go back today and say, 'Gee, if you knew everything you knew today would you have done something different then?' The answer is it doesn't matter. At the time the rulings were made, given what was at hand at that time, the court is convinced the rulings were correct. And I adhere to them."

In response, Cardoza told the B.A.R.: "The legal landscape has not changed. The legal landscape is exactly the same. He may be perceiving it differently but that scares me. I don't know what the damn epiphany was from the end of the trial till now other than him. He's putting out that he's the big hero here. No, he's not the big hero. Not at all, he's quite the opposite. He should have [thrown out the second-degree murder charge] way back when. It should have been done after the people's case, or after the defense's case. Whether you agree or disagree with what he did, put that aside, his timing was very inappropriate because nothing changed since the end of the trial. He clearly stated during the trial that there's enough evidence for a second. So what's changed? Nothing changed. This was not vigilantism. It was based on the facts that he allowed to be brought in the trial."

"That's where I absolutely short circuited with him. I lost an awful lot today. I was just more infuriated with him today because of those type of comments. A



Marjorie Knoller at her sentencing hearing Monday.

sense of justice? I'm going to take it away because it's vigilantism? Spare me that. Spare me. That is absolutely not true. You allowed the evidence in, and now you're backpedaling. Why? What's going on?"

"And I am not pleased about the judge's sense of judgment and the analogy to 9/11 and the KKK. I found that quite offensive," an impassioned Cardoza added.

Dramatic moment

The most dramatic moment in Monday's hearing came when Hammer, his voice choking with emotion, suggested that Knoller stand up and apologize.

"Diane Whipple is not here today because of exactly what she did," the prosecutor said. "And we don't do our jobs well unless we give voice to people like Diane Whipple who aren't here."

"One thing I know that would bring some peace to everybody that knew Diane is that if this woman here, this lawyer, who lied at least 52 times, who mocked Diane Whipple, and blamed her for her own death, would stand up as a human being and say I'm sorry."

Knoller scribbled a note to her lawyer but sat silently.

Smith commented to reporters on Knoller's silence outside court: "I think it's very telling of her to sit there and not to say anything and yet to have her attorney get up and make another excuse for her not to be sorry."

"She has been an attorney from day one. She has not acted like a human, like one of us, hopefully, would do. And she'll be an attorney to the end. She's not going to say she's sorry because she doesn't want to admit [her

guilt] and I think she probably doesn't want to believe she's responsible for this."

When asked to comment on Warren's statements, Smith said: "I think part of what Judge Warren said is right. Justice has to come from within but he did steal justice from me when taking away the murder, absolutely."

Smith was surrounded in the courtroom by supporters including Cardoza; Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Smith's sister, Janet Batchelder; Whipple's former co-worker, Sarah Miller; and Terry Alvey of the Friends of Diane organization. Smith, her supporters, and Hammer, all wiped away tears in the final moments of the hearing.

After the hearing, Knoller was immediately transferred to the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla where she will undergo processing for 30-60 days. Knoller will serve the remainder of her term either in that prison or in one of the four other women's prisons in California, according to a California Department of Corrections spokesman. With credit for time served and good behavior, she's expected to be released on parole in 14 months, around the same time as her husband, Robert Noel.

Noel was sentenced last month to the same four-year term for involuntary manslaughter. Unlike his wife, Noel was never charged with second-degree murder because he wasn't with the dogs during the January 26, 2001, hallway attack on Whipple, his neighbor.

The couple still face a civil wrongful death lawsuit brought by Smith and Whipple's mother,

Pamela Whipple-Kelly. Cardoza said he is eager to do battle in civil court.

"Let's just go for it because justice was not done, let's go for it in the civil court," he said.

Prosecutors have filed an appeal with the California Court of Appeal challenging Warren's decision that threw out the second-degree conviction but they conceded the appeal has little chance of succeeding.

The criminal trial was held in Los Angeles because of the pretrial publicity in the Bay Area. The Los Angeles jurors who decided the case considered making the trek to San Francisco to attend Monday's hearing in a defiant protest against Warren for vacating their verdict but the group never materialized. ▼

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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Notes from a Castro 'hobosexual'

by Cowen

I am so disgusted with the gay community, I could vomit. Last week I was sitting in front of Harvey's, resting my aching feet and enjoying the unusual summer warmth. Officer Jane, notorious dyke cop of the Castro, strolled by me, saying nothing. Then this muscle queen says hi to her and they start chatting. The guy asks her how work is going, and she said, "It's nice tonight," and he said, "Yeah, it's nice - hardly any homeless at all," and she said, "Yeah, hardly any." And then the guy turns around and looks at me

and said, "Except for that one right there." Not even trying to whisper or anything.

So I'm like, "Just talk about me like I'm not even here, that's nice." And the fag turns around and just stares at me for like 10 seconds. He has absolutely nothing to say. So I take the opportunity to fill the silence while he's still staring. "I'm not a person ... It's true," I said as I casually sat on the ground, sipping my water.

Still he says nothing. I think he was just so stunned that I, an inanimate object, a faceless piece of street trash, had spoken to him. He wondered if it was a hallucination before turning back to Officer Jane to continue their friendly chat.

Now I truly believe that if it were legal to just poison homeless people by the bunch, the city would be doing it right now. Those people in the Castro, I believe, want me and my kind exterminated like roaches. Because we are - we're just ugly, soulless creatures that make a mess of their beautiful neighborhood. We're not individuals possessed of intelligence and emotion and personality, but specks on the sidewalk to be counted and analyzed - it's a beautiful night in the Castro when the homeless are away. Decent, apartment-renting citizens can finally enjoy their neighborhood.

Officer Jane's sole responsibility, it seems, is to rid the Castro of bums. She just walks around pre-

tending to be all friendly and telling everyone to "move on." Truthfully, she's never been anything but nice to me. Every time she's spoken to me, she's spoken to me as a person, not just a homeless person. But now I understand her secret agenda. She wants us gone just as much as all the rich fags do. She's been programmed to eliminate the Castro's homeless - most of which are queer just like herself. She's a traitor, a cannibal. She eats her own.

I must admit, I enjoy being oppressed. It gives me something to be passionate about. When I had a home, I was always inside, doing nothing, feeling nothing. Now I feel awakened from a long indoor sleep, rejuvenated by the fresh air. I don't have a job or responsibilities, but I have lots to do, lots to say, lots to experience. Being a bum is a full-time job, and I take pride in my work, just as Officer Jane no doubt takes pride in shooing away homeless queers. I truly do have Bum Pride. Being homeless is an alternative lifestyle to me. If I really wanted to, I would have gotten a job and a room many months ago. But now I'm realizing how decadent this

life is. I don't have all the conveniences and comforts of home, but I have everything I need to survive, I have friends, I have fun, I have loads of free time to do creative stuff and be an activist, and I even get laid sometimes (if only by other homeless/poor people. That makes me a "hobosexual"). I've said it before, and I'll say it again - this is the best time of my life. I'm

amused by the fact that people who know that I'm homeless think that I must lead such an unimaginably miserable life. That's what I used to think of homeless people before I was one of them. Lots of them are miserable, no doubt. But I'm having

the time of my life. The only thing that really sucks is being seen as devoid of humanity. When I had a home and I was hanging out in the Castro, people didn't see me. Now they see me, and they think, "Ew, look at that homeless piece of trash. I wish it would go away." They don't even realize that I could be one of them. It doesn't register a blip on their gaydar. I couldn't possibly be a queer, I'm a non-sexual, non-sentient being, like an amoeba. Too crazy or too stupid to hear or understand when they're talking

about throwing us away. They're shocked to hear that we have a voice that isn't spewing nonsense or profanity or pleas for spare change. I feel the riot growing in me, and I think it's time to wake up the Castro with the voices of angry bums. Even if it's just a handful of us, they'll hear us, just as clearly as they hear their booming dance music. And they'll feel us like an earthquake and they'll know we're real. Let the Homeless Queer Riot begin. ▼

To find out about writing a future "Generation Q" column, which appears in conjunction with the Bay Area Reporter and LYRIC, please e-mail Ned the red@yahoo.com. All lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people age 25 and under are welcome to join the group of writers. No experience is required. All that is required is a different experience and the will to tell it. Because of the age of some of the writers or the fact that they may not be out to their families or face other circumstances, the authors of this column may only be identified by their first names.

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Sobering research from Barcelona AIDS confab

analysis by Bob Roehr

The most memorable International AIDS Conferences have been ones of extremes: the grimness of Berlin (1993) with the realization that AZT bought only a very brief respite from death; the relief of Vancouver (1996) where the impact of protease inhibitors was recognized; the optimism of Durban, South Africa (2000) which saw a blossoming of activism within the developing world and hope that widespread treatment would soon begin.

The pendulum has swung again with the XIV International AIDS Conference that closed in Barcelona, Spain on July 12. The tone was a sobering one that recognized anew both the complexity and the difficulties of trying to roll back the plague known as AIDS. There will be no easy victories, and the battles ahead will be many, likely stretching for our lifetimes.

'Superinfection'

Developments in clinical medicine are perhaps most intractable. Eminent Harvard Medical School researcher Bruce Walker presented the key finding.

He has been following a group of 14 patients identified with primary HIV infection, that window of perhaps a dozen weeks between exposure to HIV and the development of antibodies to the virus. Walker's work has shown that early intervention with therapy can help preserve important subsets of CD4 cells, and through a series of therapy interruptions, the immune system might be trained to control viremia.

Patient AC06 had gone



Dr. Bruce Walker

through a series of treatment interruptions and his immune system was controlling the virus very well. Then, his viral load took off like a skyrocket.

Could it be that his immune system suddenly had lost control of the virus? Had a reported incident of unsafe sex resulted in patient AC06 becoming infected with a second strain of HIV, in effect a new virus that his system could not control?

Walker parsed the DNA of the clade B virus now surging through AC06's body and compared it with a stored blood sample taken just a month earlier. The two samples were 88 percent the same, they differed by only 12 percent. "You'd think that with this degree of sequence diversity you'd have enough cross protection," he said. But that small difference was

enough to let the new virus gain the upper hand.

When he compared the sequences with the DNA of AC06's sex partner, Walker found an exact match. AC06 had become infected with a second virus, one that his immune system could not control.

The QUEST team from the University of Geneva, Switzerland, reported a similar case of "superinfection" in a study enrollee. The gay man originally was infected with a clade AE virus, which came under partial control by his immune system, augmented with therapy. He subsequently became infected with a clade B virus through unprotected sex while on vacation in Brazil. The second virus reproduced at a much higher rate because the immune system could not control it as effectively.

Two additional examples of superinfection were published in the August issue of the *Journal of Virology*. They involved injection drug users enrolled in a study run as a joint Thai-CDC collaboration in Thailand.

Over the years other researchers have presented a handful of cases believed to be superinfection with a second strain of HIV. Such work requires a good bit of luck, before and after blood samples, and complicated laboratory work.

The earlier cases were controversial and the AIDS community really did not want to believe them; it tried to ignore the message. It likewise downplayed similar evidence of superinfection seen in monkeys and in human cell cultures. But the cascade of evidence has become overwhelming and Walker is too prominent a

page 23 ►

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VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion® (triazolam)
Versed® (midazolam)
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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OBITUARIES

Teresita la Campesina dies at 61

by Horacio N. Roque Ramirez

When did I start singing? Well, I started singing very young. I had the gift since I was 4, 5 years old. My aunts, which were my mother's sisters, said, "That boy is different and likes to sing, but something looks odd. But he likes to sing!"

Thus begins the history of the well-known ranchera singer, Teresita la Campesina. When I began to record my conversations with Teresita in 1995, I still did not understand the fundamental role she played in giving visibility to San Francisco's gay Latino community for more than four decades. From 1958 until her death, this recognized singer of Mexican Lola Beltrán melodies gave her voice and her boldness to San Francisco.

She passed away in her room at the Mission Hotel on Friday, July 12 at about 12:45 p.m. The cause

of death was liver disease. She was 61. Teresita is survived by her close friends Sergio Iniguez and Marisela Plaza, and hundreds of other friends and community admirers and supporters.

Born in Los Angeles on November 29, 1940 to Isaac Gonzalez and Jesus Nevarez, Teresita fought for her life and her sexuality from the very beginning. While World War II was exploding in Europe, the voice and the mouth of Alberto Nevarez, who changed his name officially years later to Alberto, equally broke against taboos and intolerance in Los Angeles since the 1940s. Pushed out of her home for being "joto," Alberto made his life in the streets like many gays. But, looking for a city more tolerant than Los Angeles, she set out toward the presumed mecca for gays. And this is how in Stockton and in San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s, Teresita begins to shine, pleasing hundreds of fans won over by her

powerful voice.

She was especially known in the Latino barrio of the Mission in places like La Rondalla, El Intimo, and La India Bonita. As a transgender artist, Teresita was one of the most important personalities, creating a very visible gay/queer Latino community in San Francisco. And despite being HIV-positive for more than 10 years, she continued to make space for her community, singing to and educating whoever cared to listen to her legendary stories. Peppered with camp, live reenactments of outrageous episodes, and often plain old too-much-information, Teresita's tales from the days made history come alive for today's Latino and Latino queers.

Testimonial after testimonial corroborates the important role Teresita has played since the 1950s in making gay presence visible in Los Angeles and in San Francisco. As a transgender, Teresita was an easy target for police repression,

and yet she refused to stop walking the streets, around bars, restaurants, homes, and community agencies, to make her artistry come alive through her recognizable voice. Through this cultural work, Teresita made transgender Latina and queer Latino community happen. And the Mission District's Latino community in general recognized her artistry as a Latina singer crossing genders and sexualities to entertain her community. Literally walking around with her art form and her history in her mouth, Teresita gave voice to Spanish language and Latino cultural traditions in the city.

In the last few months Teresita's health turned for the worse from complications resulting from hepatitis B and C. San Francisco's Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, Mission Neighborhood Health Center, Instituto Familiar de la Raza, and AGUILAS have set up a fund to help cover costs for her services, and to set up a permanent fund to help other aging transgressors in the community. To help in these efforts with donations, please contact Prado Gomez at Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, at (415) 575-1646.

There will also be two fundraising events in celebration of Teresita's life. The first will be at the club Roccapulco, at Diane Felix's "Chiki Boom," at 3140 Mission Street, tonight (Thursday July



Teresita la Campesina

18), beginning at 8 p.m. The second will be on August 3, from 7 to 11 p.m. at Instituto Familiar de la Raza, 2919 Mission Street. For more information contact Gustavo Cravioto at (415) 229-0505.

A memorial Mass for Teresita will be held on Friday July 19, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Charles Catholic Church, 713 South Van Ness Avenue (at 18th). Her body was to be buried today at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

Teresita's determination in her last years to make it this far has no end. Looking back at her life in 1996, she said, "And see, it's not because you're blessed with a gift. A lot of people do not say they're HIV-positive, and I have the balls and the gall to say, you know, it's nothing to be ashamed. This is the way the world is today. Maybe they'll find a cure. But I live on hope. I am a survivor. I made it." ▼

Canada

◀ page 1

Toronto for using its religious position to challenge discriminatory laws that are often enforced through religious reasoning.

"Their involvement really undermines the argument that same-sex marriage is in opposition to freedom of religion," said Marshall.

MCC founder the Reverend Troy Perry issued a statement on July 12 praising MCC-Toronto for its brave battle.

"Today, on behalf of all members and friends of Metropolitan Community Churches, I salute the couples who fought and won this

new legal precedent – as well as the Reverend Dr. Brent Hawkes and the members of MCC-Toronto for their commitment to social and spiritual justice for gays and lesbians," said Perry's statement. It was Hawkes, pastor of the Toronto church, who married the couples involved in the lawsuit.

"Metropolitan Community Churches have long been committed to equality for gays and lesbians under the civil marriage laws. In 1970, MCC filed the world's first lawsuit to recognize same-sex marriages in California. The attempt was not successful, but MCC has continued the fight for equal rights for more than three decades," said Perry.

California may not yet allow

same-sex marriage, but its residents' opinions are rapidly changing, noted Marshall. The Canadian decision comes on the heels of a Californians for Civil Marriage poll that found 75 percent of the state's voters under the age of 30 approving gay marriage, and just a day after a national online poll conducted by Wittek-Combs showed increasing support for same-sex partner rights. In the national survey, 2,050 adults were interviewed, with 71 percent supporting hospital visitations rights; 60 percent supporting joint property ownership; 59 percent supporting inheritance rights; and 48 percent supporting Social Security survivor benefits. ▼

AIDS conference

◀ page 1

Africa – turned away from hospitals because of lack of money – the drugs that took the promising college student from near death to renewed health.

Clinton said he kept the picture of AIDS victim Ricky Ray – a child forced out of his Florida school when his AIDS status was revealed – on his desk in the Oval Office during his eight years in the White House. Ray died of AIDS before Clinton took office in 1993, prior to the current era where potent drug cocktails that can save lives became available.

The speeches before more than 7,000 delegates highlighted closing ceremonies of the conference. The talks were interrupted frequently as the crowd applauded the calls to action from the two men, clearly favorites of the conference.

Clinton said the rich nations of

the world "should figure out what our share is, and we should pay it."

He referred to the cost of treating 90 percent of the people with AIDS in the world who have no access to treatment. The tab for treatment has been estimated at about \$10 billion a year. The former U.S. president also said developing countries had a duty to sign agreements with pharmaceutical companies to ensure drugs would be made available at the lowest possible prices – agreements that would include the option to import those drugs from generic producers in India and Brazil. Then, he said, poor nations should figure out what they can afford to pay "and send us the rest of the bill."

Also on the podium, Joep Lange, professor of medicine at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and the new president of the International AIDS Society – the sponsor of the Barcelona conference – called for governments and agencies to stop

using "concerns" about bringing drugs to an uncontrolled pandemic in villages of Africa and Asia as excuses for inaction.

"If we can get cold Coca-Cola and beer to every remote corner of Africa, it should not be impossible to do the same with these drugs," he said, eliciting thunderous applause from the audience.

Coca-Cola was the object of protest at the meeting, allegedly for not providing adequate health care for all its workers around the world.

Lange said some scientists expressed "concerns" that sophisticated monitoring might not be available for experimental treatment programs, but added, "There is actually very little evidence that laboratory monitoring prevents mortality to drug toxicity."

"There is a lot of evidence that not treating symptomatic HIV infection is lethal. Why are we always more concerned about doing harm than about not doing good?" ▼

end," said Bercu. "With San Francisco being the epicenter of gay life and being close to LA, and weather-wise that is the nicest weekend of the year, I wanted to throw a party to launch the fall season."

The weekend will consist of a Friday night party at the DNA Lounge, a Saturday event at the Gift Center Pavilion and a Sunday event at a location to be announced. Bercu said he wants to combine fashion and art with the dance party format for the weekend, which will benefit a local nonprofit.

To make the event a success,

Bercu said he is trying to price the weekend ticket below or near \$100 and is hopeful he can draw out of town guests to the city for the weekend.

"It is going to be the least expensive weekend ticket that the scene has seen in a long time. I want people there and want people to see what I can do," said Bercu. "The pricing has been a huge factor and people's decision to travel. I am nervous if we go to war with Iraq that I will lose out of town people. I don't think I can attract 2,200 people just from around the Bay Area." ▼

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Nightlife scene

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tainment weekend event called Labor Day SF – A New Tradition, hosted by Tom Bercu, the producer of the ReUnion party during Pride for the last five years. Bercu, who recently spent six weeks working for club promoter Jeffrey Sanker in Miami, said he wanted to revive the Labor Day LA events which folded two years ago.

"I noticed since Labor Day LA ended, there was a void on the West Coast for a major destination week-

Season tickets

by Jim Provenzano

Despite more than 10,000 paid registrations and several thousand purchases of event tickets, representatives of Sydney Gay Games are preparing for stringent budget cuts to keep the quadrennial sports event in the black.

Sydney 2002 Co-chair Bev Lange told the *Sydney Star Observer*, that city's prominent gay paper, "There will have already been some areas identified between now and then that we may need to cut if revenue doesn't look very strong. We're more than happy to make those decisions. We won't be delaying in doing it. They will be made early August."

Their goal of 15,000 participants may not happen. If registrations close at 12,000 this would leave the Games with a budget shortfall of almost \$700,000.

Cutbacks are expected in the parties and cultural festival, but not in athletics. Several sports are already full with waiting lists, but many small sports still have plenty of space.

Tourism groups are noticing a smaller influx of prepaid bookings, and there is a growing waiting list for hosted housing.

Registrations from North America were already ahead of target. The initial target for North American participation was 40 percent, but already North Americans (U.S. and Canada) represented "around 50 percent" of total participants, a Sydney 2002 spokesperson told the paper.

Unlike the veiled financial

scandals in Amsterdam in 1998, Sydney organizers' openness around the situation is commendable. While they may face less than expected revenue, plans are still going well for all events.

To read the full article, visit www.ssonet.com.au/home.asp.

The Cultural Festival runs from October 25 through November 9. The Opening Ceremony is November 2, and the Sport Festival runs November 2-9.

There's a little over a week left to register online. To find out more about Gay Games, visit www.sydney2002.org.au.



Hoop dream a reality

With all the hoopla over the gay baseball player Mystery Date having subsided (for now), it comes as a bit of a let-down that when a major league sports star does come out — and is a woman — the gossip factory seems to care less.

In an interview in New York's *Time Out* May 30 issue, Sue Wicks of the New York Liberty basketball team was asked: "Are you a lesbian?"

"I am," she said. "Being from New York, if you're gay, you're gay. I think it's important that if you are gay, you not be afraid to say who you are."

What's interesting is that a culture and entertainment weekly would scoop *Sports Illustrated*, the *New York Times*, and other publications.

"You worry the issue might become so much bigger than the sport," Wicks told the magazine. "As an athlete, it's a little annoying when that becomes the point of interest. But I would never avoid

that question, especially in New York."

Bruce Levy, an agent who represents Wicks, commented to the *New York Times* on whether Wicks's coming out would hinder corporate sponsorships and endorsements, as it did for tennis star Martina Navratilova.

"Martina remains one of the most popular female athletes in American sports," Levy said. "Sue has played for years overseas, in Japan, Italy, Israel. She's adored all over the world, because she makes such an effort to get to know the people and accept them on their terms. Her sexual orientation doesn't change who she is as a person."

That may be true, but it changes many people's admiration for her, and adds another member to the slowly growing crew of out athletes making sexuality less of a problem in athletics, and simply a question any reporter should be able to ask.

Rap sheet

Maybe someday it'll be a more frequent question to ask basketball players than, "How do you plead?"

Philadelphia 76ers basketball player Alan Iverson, 27, was charged with assault, criminal trespass, terrorist threats, and gun offenses last week. Four of the counts are felonies, and Iverson faces up to 54 years in prison if convicted of all the charges.

Iverson allegedly burst into a cousin's apartment with a handgun and threatened two men while looking for his wife, whom he reportedly chased out of their home naked after the two had an argument.

Among his other crimes and infractions, in October 2000, Iverson was reprimanded by NBA Commissioner David Stern for violent references and derogatory lyrics directed toward gays and women in his thankfully unreleased rap CD.

Sports Illustrated loves a homophobe, and named Iverson the top athlete of 2001.

Iverson's main sponsor, Reebok, gave Iverson a lifetime extension of a 10-year, \$50 million endorsement deal last year.

"It is Allen's celebrity status, not the facts, that continues to fuel these proceedings," Reebok Vice President Denise Kaigler said.

Those darn facts, getting in the way of business. Maybe Reebok will start selling license plates.

Star search

Figure skating sure is popular, and relatively felon-free. A flock of Olympic stars will show their flair at Champions on Ice in San Jose this Saturday, July 20, for two shows.

Performers include openly gay



Timed out: Sue Wicks, WNBA supah-star.

star Rudy Galindo, plus hunks Alexei Yagudin, Timothy Goebel, Evgeni Plushenko, Michael Weiss, Elvis Stojko, and Philippe Candeloro (hopefully performing his kilt number).

Solo women performing include Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen, Irina Slutskaya, and Nicole Bobek.

Pairs performers include Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev, Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow, Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, and more.

Shows are at 2 and 8 p.m. at the Compaq Center. For tickets, call (408) 998-TIXS. Tickets also available at Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster outlets, and at the box office. For more info, visit www.championsonice.com.

Mailboxing

It's always nice to stop by the B.A.R. office and pick up my snail mail (although e-mail is much more efficient way to ensure that your event gets written up in a timely fashion).

Among the cards and letters:

Like hike

The Gay and Lesbian Sierrans newsletter includes info on past and future treks, including a July 20 hike through the Marin Headlands, a July 27 Mount Sizer trip, and a big Labor Day camping trip to Toiyabe National Forest. Info: (415) 281-5666, or visit www.sfbay.sierra-club.org/GLS/start.asp.

Wetsuitable

The Northern California Rainbow Divers newsletter includes info on their upcoming scuba swap, the July 27 Cypress Sea Boat Dive in Monterey (\$75). August events take place at Van Damme State Park and Point Lobos, and autumn dives in British Columbia and the Channel Islands are planned. Info: www.rainbow-divers.org, or contact membership organizer Anna Wan at (415) 252-7103 or membership@rainbow-divers.org.

Moulin luge

Look out! Street luges will race down Haight, SOMA, and

Potrero Hill's steepest streets July 27 at the Red Bull Streets of San Francisco luge competition. Competitors will race up to 60 mph for a \$10,000 prize. It's free to watch, and starts at 8:30 a.m., with finals at 12:30 p.m. For maps and more, visit www.redbullstreetsofsf.com.

Footy

You call it hacky-sack, the fun between-class hobby of groovy guys and gals on college campuses.

Well, actually, it's footbag, dude, and its athletes are some of the most nimble of players. Now it's got a net, rules, and championships. Freestyle events are at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater, Bay and Lyon streets, August 8 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. \$15-18.

Net Footbag Championships will invade Justin Herman Plaza, Market Street at Embarcadero, August 10 and 11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$10-12. For more info, get kicky at www.footbag.org/worlds2002.

Paper tigrrrr

A Texan reader sent me an article from the *Dallas Observer* — Rose Farley's engaging first-person cover story of trying out for the Dallas Diamonds, one of many fledgling Women's Professional Football League teams.

While an enthusiastic account of the financially-needy sport, Farley makes casual mention of her boyfriend, yet takes leaps and gridiron bounds to avoid acknowledging the strong lesbian presence in the league (covered here in previous articles).

Oh well, hopefully, Sue Wicks will inspire her in the future to consider taking a firm grasp of the obvious. I'm not furthering any stereotypes about strong women, just that many have come out, and may continue to do so, but only if sports writers ask.

I'm asking, I'm telling. Going to Gay Games in an unusual sport? E-mail moi at jimproven@yahoo.com. ▼

For more GLBT sports type stuff, visit www.sportscomplex.org.

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Pallotta AIDS Vaccine Rides grind to halt

by Zak Szymanski

Earlier this year, representatives from Pallotta Teamworks told the *Bay Area Reporter* that contrary to rumors, the company would continue to host its relatively new AIDS Vaccine Rides in the United States and elsewhere. Now, however, the for-profit venture has acknowledged that low turnout for these events has translated into even more dismal-than-usual returns to benefiting charities, and the vaccine rides will be discontinued after this

year.

Already, one such event has been canceled entirely. The Experimental AIDS Vaccine Ride, planned for September 22-28 from Denver to Santa Fe, attracted only 188 registrants, according to the Pallotta Web site.

"All of these people are amazing. Heroes," said a statement from the feel-good company about those who planned to participate in the ride. "However, 188 riders is nowhere near our goal of 600 riders. Therefore, we canceled the Experimental AIDS Vaccine Ride. Because there is no

way with those numbers that any money would be returned to charity, it was the right thing to do."

Pallotta Teamworks is now encouraging those 188 riders to sign up instead for the remainder of the planned Vaccine Rides: a Canada to U.S. ride at the end of August, or a three-day Vaccine Ride from upstate New York to Manhattan scheduled for this weekend. A recent European Vaccine Ride, the company told reporters, resulted in less than 10 percent of funds raised returned to charities. ▼

HIV-positive Muppet attacked by Congress

by Zak Szymanski

Not since Tinky Winky has an inanimate object drawn such fire from American conservatives.

A day after *Sesame Street* executives announced that its South African show would soon feature an HIV-positive Muppet, six U.S. lawmakers sent a letter to the president of the government-funded Public Broadcasting System emphasizing that such a character would not be welcome in this country.

The Muppet announcement was made at last week's XIV International AIDS conference in Barcelona. The South African version of *Sesame Street*, called *Takalani Sesame*, plans to intro-

duce an "upbeat" HIV-positive female Muppet in September as a way to tackle AIDS stigmatism, often blamed as a barrier to HIV prevention and treatment in Africa. There will be no explicit discussion of sex, executives said, and no mention of how the Muppet contracted the disease.

In the letter sent to PBS president Pat Mitchell—signed by Representatives W.J. Tauzin (R-Louisiana), Joe Barton (R-Texas), Richard Burr (R-North Carolina), Charles Pickering (R-Mississippi), Cliff Stearns (R-Florida), and Fred Upton (R-Michigan)—American lawmakers expressed concern about the young age of *Sesame Street*'s viewers and noted, "We look forward to working with you to ensure that only age and cul-

turally appropriate programs air on PBS, which is a mainstay that millions of parents have come to rely upon over the past 35 years."

The letter also demanded to know how much money PBS gives to *Sesame Street*, and how much the new HIV-positive Muppet will cost, according to news reports.

South African Broadcasting Corporation spokeswoman Yvonne Kgama told reporters earlier this week that American concerns about the Muppet are basically not relevant in a country where one in nine people are infected.

"The reality is that children as young as they are affected very closely by HIV/AIDS," she said. "They experience death and dying of people very close to them." ▼

Top police brass

◀ page 3

transgender community.

"We hope that he'll continue the positive steps of improving police-community relations with the transgender community," Person said.

She added that CUAV participates in the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force that was created by Supervisor Mark Leno. "We hope he'll continue to see that as an important aspect of his work," she added.

Person also pointed out that Sanders has a long history of working on discrimination issues, and was one of the litigants in the 1970s that forced the police department to open up to minorities.

Theresa Sparks, an openly transgender member of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and co-chair of the Alice

B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, was pleased with both appointments.

"I think they are both positive," Sparks told the B.A.R. "I've worked with Chief Sanders at the HRC." She added that it's her impression that Sanders, the first African American to lead the SFPD, is sensitive to discrimination of any kind.

As for Fagan, Sparks said that while he ran Northern Station when he was a captain, there was no trouble with how officers there dealt with the transgender community.

"The community had trouble in the Tenderloin, but not along Polk or Polk Gulch," Sparks said, referring to the area under Fagan's jurisdiction. "Both appointments are very, very positive for our community."

Another candidate for supervisor in District 8, which includes the Castro, also had nothing but praise for the selections.

"I think they make an out-

standing team," said Bevan Dufy.

"I think we have the best police force in the country in terms of diversity, but there still is an unfinished agenda, specifically transgender issues and more broadly in terms of closing open cases. I think that Chief Sanders and Assistant Chief Fagan are well-suited to move the department forward."

Reached Monday as he was clearing out his old desk, Fagan said he looked forward to working with Sanders. Both men were busy this week as representatives of the U.S. Olympic Committee were in town regarding San Francisco's bid for the 2012 Games and there were other activities going on. Additionally, on Tuesday it was learned that suspected al Qaeda terrorists had a video that featured the Golden Gate Bridge and other possible targets in the state.

Fagan said that it will be his responsibility to carry out Sanders's vision for the department.

"It's a new department, it's a new era," Fagan said. ▼

Barcelona

◀ page 18

researcher, his data too exquisite to ignore.

There are two broad implications of these demonstrations of superinfection. For those living with HIV, it means they "must avoid risk behaviors if they wish to avoid reinfection with potentially more virulent or possibly multidrug-resistant virus," wrote Dr. W. David Hardy, in his conference coverage for Medscape.

New Mexico treatment activist Bob Munk said, "If you have a potent antiviral combo on board, it may well 'snuff out' any reinfecting strain. However, if the new-comer virus is resistant to drugs you're taking, it could quickly overtake your viral population. Safe sex is as important for two 'poozies' as for anyone else."

The news also is "a splash of cold water, a reality check" for the development of a protective vaccine, said Seth F. Berkley, president of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. While it is unclear how widespread or common this phenomena of superinfection may be, and the ethical and scientific challenges may make it impossible to answer that research question, it does raise serious issues as to what a vaccine can hope to accomplish.

It suggests that any protective vaccine will have to elicit protective responses to a diversity of virus that are even more broad and varied than had been anticipated. That complexity may well doom such efforts.

A parallel can be drawn with the flu, another highly variable

and rapidly mutating virus. Researchers still have not found a way to create a successful vaccine based upon core elements of the virus that will offer many years of protection. Rather, each year a new vaccine must be created and administered that is keyed to the dominant strains of flu expected to emerge that season.

Walker said that all of the HIV vaccines currently in clinical trials stimulate immune responses that are narrower and weaker than what he found in patient AC06. They are likely to offer even less protection against infection.

Other pieces of scientific information raised potential warning flags about the broader introduction of therapy in the developing world.

The NNRTI class of drugs (nevirapine, efavirenz/Sustiva) has proven to be as effective a first line therapy as protease inhibitors, when used in combination with NRTI drugs such as AZT. They are easier and cheaper to make than PIs and are seen as key to broader use of therapy in developing nations. Their great weakness is that a single mutation can blow the effectiveness of the entire class of drugs; there is little margin for error.

Treatment activists have pushed for across-the-board use of nevirapine to greatly reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV. A single dose of the drug can cut those infections in half, to about 16 percent of infants born to infected mothers. And it costs less than a dollar.

But what those advocates are less likely to discuss is the downside of resistance. The HIVNET 012 trial in Uganda found that a

single dose of nevirapine given to the mother while in labor and to the child after birth resulted in drug resistance-associated mutations in the virus of 19 percent of the mothers and 46 percent of the infected infants.

This one-time use of monotherapy essentially ends the possibility for future combination therapy among a significant portion of those who took it, and expands the pool of drug-resistant virus that could be transmitted to others within the developing world.

This problem does not arise in the U.S. and Europe because nevirapine is not given as monotherapy but only in combination with other drugs. Furthermore, westerners have the fallback of protease inhibitors, which few people are even contemplating for wide use in the developing world.

The other shoe to drop is laboratory evidence suggesting that the protease inhibitors that bind so well to the clade B HIV that is common in the West, do not bind as tightly to clade A and C virus that are common elsewhere. This "significantly amplifies the effects of the drug-resistant mutations" when they do occur, wrote Johns Hopkins University researcher Ernesto Freire and colleagues in the journal *Biochemistry*.

The implication is that non-clade B HIV can move quickly and easily develop resistance to protease inhibitors. Only a very limited number of patients infected with non-clade B virus are on a regimen containing PIs, so we do not know for sure how the laboratory findings in cell cultures will translate into human outcomes, but it does give one pause. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

MUNI PUBLIC MEETING IN BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT

Muni would like to hear your ideas about potential improvements to routes that serve this neighborhood: 54 Felton, 29 Sunset, 44 O'Shaughnessy, 23 Monterey.

Monday, July 22, 2002 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
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City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th St., between Folsom and Harrison Sts., and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

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For more information on these positions: <http://www.sfeenvironment.org>
Please contact Ann Courtright at 415-252-2558 for any questions.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department, on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, is soliciting proposals from experienced commissary service contractors to provide the Department's adult detention facilities (jails) with a full range of commissary services for the inmates and a comprehensive Inmate Trust Fund Accounting and Management System (ITFAMS) to manage the personal funds of all inmates.

As part of the ITFAMS, the chosen provider will be expected to have a workable Direct Debit (DD) function that interfaces with the Inmate Telephone System (ITS) and allows inmate telephone calls to be directly debited from the inmate commissary account via the telephone interface. At a minimum, all prospective contractors must be able to meet the following objectives: To deliver high quality commissary services to the jails, provide the jails with an ITFAMS that meets the specifications and addresses the accounting needs of the Department and the City, provide a working Direct Debit system with the ability to interface with the Inmate Telephone System, operate the commissary service program and ITFAMS at no cost to the Department, maintain an open, collaborative relationship with the Department, maintain a market price philosophy with regard to the retail selling prices of commissary items, maintain a professional commissary staff with the ability to work in a secure, institutional setting, and identify a licensing fee, if any, for providing access to debit pay phone system, for managing the funds for phone use, and for providing the debit phone cards as part of the commissary sales process.

Copies of the Request for Proposal may be obtained by contacting Chief Deputy Carl S. Koehler at the Sheriff's Dept., #1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., Rm. 456, San Francisco, Ca. 94102, (415) 554-7225. A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held July 31st, 2002, at 9AM, at 425 7th St., San Francisco. Proposals are due on August 16th, 2002, by 5PM. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Fixed proposals will not be accepted.

STATEMENT FILE 258591

The following person(s) are doing business as: Prestige Electric. 325 Buckingham Way Apt. 501, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yevgeniy Iolin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/18/2002.
JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258684

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lanxang Thai Video. 626 Ellis Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jieng Chanthavong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/21/2002.
JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258571

The following person(s) are doing business as: R.P.A.R. Designs. 631 O'Farrell Street #308, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Raul P. Panglinan and Antonio R. Rubin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/17/2002.
JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258140

The following person(s) are doing business as: Echomore Interior Design. 1206 4th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Susan Williams/president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/31/2002.
JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258639

The following person(s) are doing business as: Theo-SF. 414 Liberty Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Theo Eldon Garcia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/19/2002.
JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 227662

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Lanxang Thai Video Rental. Located at: 640 Turk Street #48, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 12/22/1998. This business was conducted by: a individual: Kene Keo Bandaphone
JUNE 27, JULY 4, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258775

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cecile & Jeanne. 2086 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Perry M. Bryer, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/26/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258720

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jack Austin & Associates. 2800 Filbert Street, #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jack A. Austin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 24, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/24/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258908

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nob Hill Tavern 1390 California Street San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Stephanie Ann Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/01/02.
JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258845

The following person(s) are doing business as: At Home Fertility Services 1530 Dolores Street #6 San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Jennifer Bauman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/24/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/28/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258965

The following person(s) are doing business as: Scholl Solutions. 160 8th Street, Ste. #8, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mike D. Scholl. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/02/2002.
JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259238

The following person(s) are doing business as: CrewVisa 1804 Laguna Street San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by a co-partners signed Michael Erives. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/02.
JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 2002

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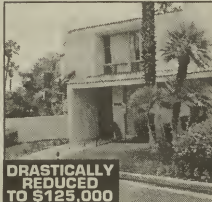
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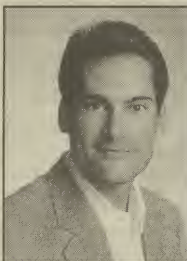
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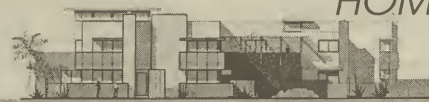
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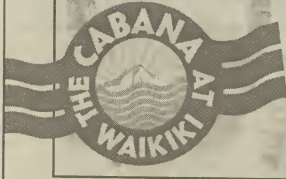
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Position announcement
Program Manager

The Living Center is a new contract from the County of Santa Clara and is envisioned as a peer-driven drop-in HIV/AIDS program and facility. The contractor, Positive Resources of Santa Clara County, seeks a full-time Program Manager who will establish and manage the Living Center facility and programs, and has the ability to particularly focus on the needs of ethnic populations and the needs of women.

Job Summary. The Program Manager will establish and manage a facility that is a safe and supportive environment for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and provides direct services such as support groups and peer counseling as well as programs designed to increase accessibility to existing HIV services in Santa Clara County. The Program Manager must be able to focus on the needs of ethnic populations and the needs of women, both of who have special concerns relating to accessibility and other barriers to services. In recognition of the fact that the majority of HIV infected people in Santa Clara County are gay men, the Program Manager will work closely with the local Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community to make sure their specific needs and concerns are met. Substantive experience with HIV/AIDS issues is necessary. The Program Manager will report to the President of the Board of Directors.

Job Responsibilities. The Program Manager will be responsible for:

- Identifying and developing programming to meet the needs of underserved populations within the HIV/AIDS community of Santa Clara County.
- Collaborating with other agencies to establish and maintain memorandums of understanding (MOUs)
- Hiring, training, and supervision of a half-time Volunteer Coordinator
- Creating an office dedicated to out-stationed agencies with related infrastructure
- Complying with 100% of the Santa Clara County contract reporting requirements.
- Planning and encouraging involvement of clients in community forums, meetings, and surveys.
- Budget monitoring, strategic planning, developing and managing interagency relationships and similar administrative functions.

Qualifications. The successful candidate will bring the following:

- Three to five years of relevant HIV/AIDS experience, and college degree or equivalent managerial experience;
- Demonstrated commitment and leadership skills in health services
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and creatively
- Proven ability to convene, organize, and sustain partnerships with other agencies
- Proven ability to move a project from conception to realization
- Excellent writing, and communication skills
- Ability and desire to work in a small, collegial, fluid organization.

How To Apply. Submit a letter of interest addressing the qualifications, three references, and resume to:

Charles L. Evans
Positive Resources of SCC
55 Glistening Court
Milpitas, CA 95035-4345
charles@evansgroup.net (e-mail)

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. No phone calls, please. Positive Resources strongly encourages women, HIV+ persons, persons of color, those that are bilingual, and persons with disabilities to apply.

Revised May 22, 2002

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-
540290

In the Matter of the Application of Patricia deBeruff Waite. For change of Name. The application of Patricia deBeruff Waite for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Patricia deBeruff Waite has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Joseph DeBeruff Waite. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258924

The following person(s) are doing business as: Master Automotive. 262 7th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yi Zhwang Zhou. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 2, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/02/2002.
JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258980

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Health Support. 2579 32nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116-2953. This business is conducted by an individual signed Matthew Stuart Kramer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 3, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/03/2002.
JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-
540327

In the Matter of the Application of Rachel Amie Benjamin. For change of Name. The application of Rachel Amie Benjamin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rachel Amie Benjamin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Amie Pascal. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002



STATEMENT FILE 258936

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sigillo Properties. 1623- Yosemite Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by tenants-in-common signed Joseph Sigillo, Dominic Sigillo and Phillip Sigillo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/02/2002.
JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259088

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lopez Painting. 1463 Thomas Avenue #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hildan Lopez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 08, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/09/2002.
JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258700**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Danya Enterprises 468 Tehama Street, Apt. 7 San Francisco, Ca 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Robinson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/21/02.
JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-
540361

In the Matter of the Application of Catherine Kohua Sun for Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun For change of Name. The application of Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun-Tan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of September, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 2002

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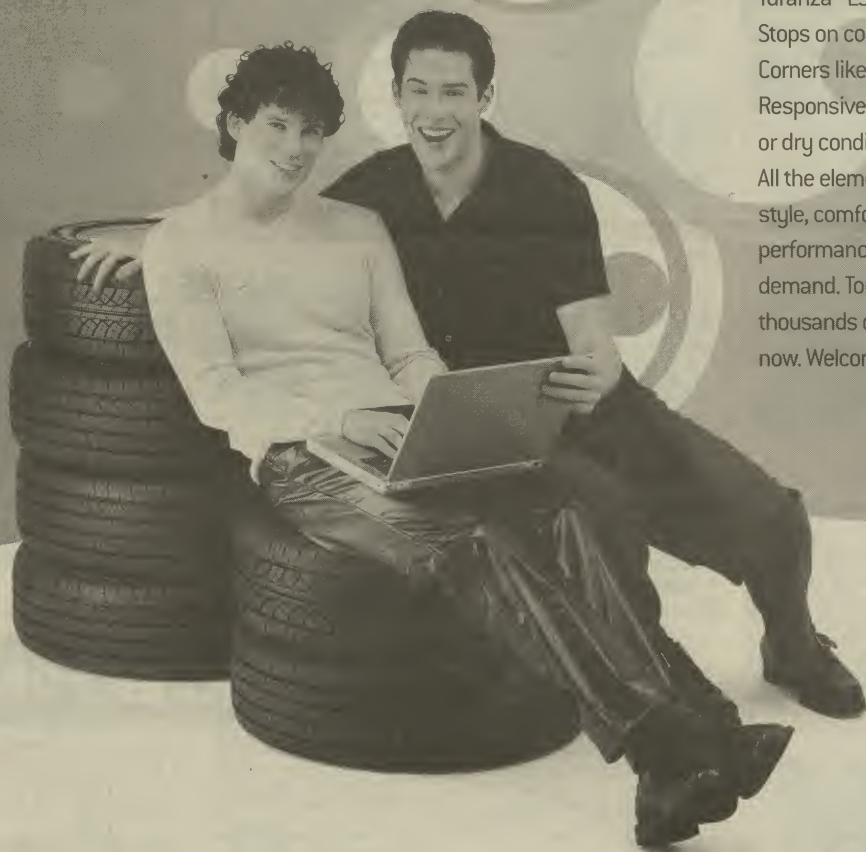
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'S. Pacific' overtures

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page 31



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Yannis Adoniou and Kunst-Stoff at the Cowell.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 29 • 18 July 2002



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Joe Sears and Jaston Williams return to Texas

by Richard Dodds

The two men who created it 20 years ago have changed in many ways, but *Greater Tuna* remains pretty much the same.

"We have a couple of new things to spice it up some," said Joe Sears, "but Jaston and I are very good at making sure it's done the same way, and we've built a reputation on that."

Jaston Williams, officially the trim one, and Joe Sears, the portly one, are no longer the hungry actors who partied heartily at San Antonio gay bars during the '70s. Sears now finds comfort through an adopted family and at his isolated Wyoming home. Williams, on the other hand, is working on adopting a child who would share Williams' home in New Orleans' French Quarter and life on the road.

Neither has ever made much of a fuss about being gay, especially in the early days of *Greater Tuna*, when audiences of all stripes were discovering the two-character *tour de force*. With awesome alacrity, Sears and Williams switch in and out of costumes to play 20 of the male and female residents of Tuna, Texas.

"I think, subconsciously, there was a little awareness that there might be some confusion," Williams said of any reticence to be more openly gay. "The play wasn't about being gay."

Yet their discretion at the time has laid the seeds of tolerance in unlikely places, Sears said. "We're responsible for getting a lot of people into the theater who had never set foot in a theater before. In Houston, and this was probably 18 years ago, we were getting

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Martian arias

Berkeley Opera reprises 'Riot Grrrl on Mars'

by Mark Mardon

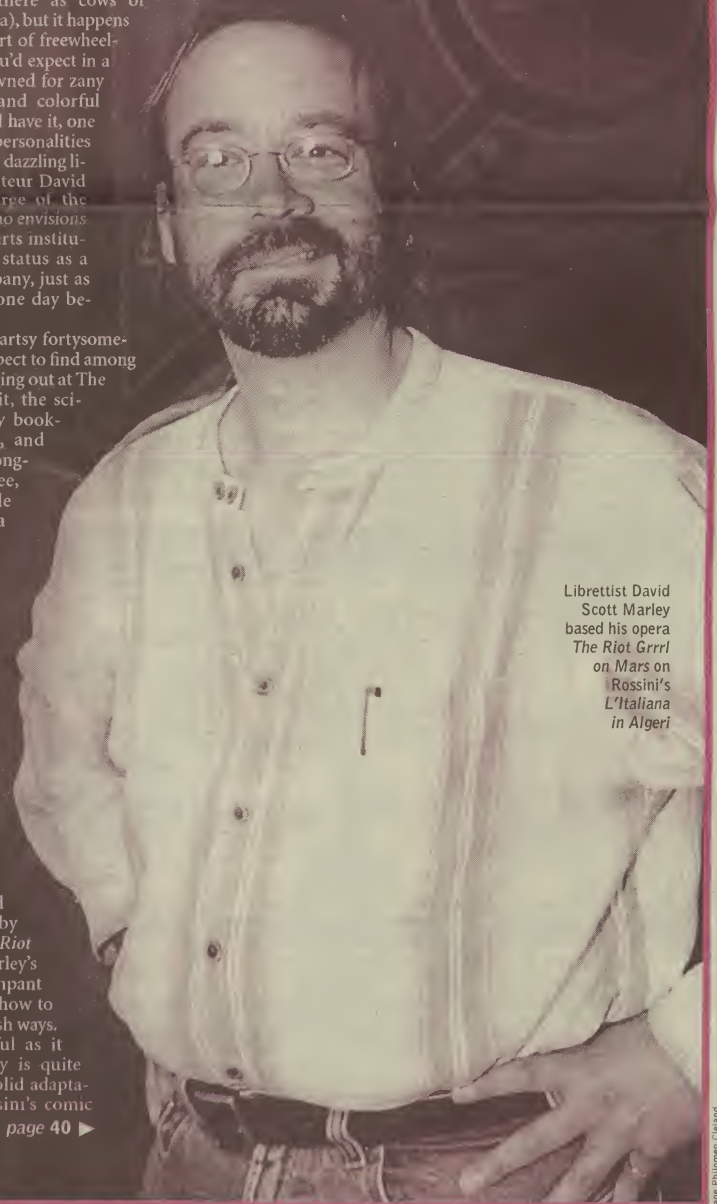
Opera in Berkeley? It may not be as common there as cows or farms (ha ha), but it happens with the sort of freewheeling style you'd expect in a town renowned for zany brilliance and colorful characters. As luck would have it, one of the city's most vivid personalities lives and thrives there, the dazzling librettist and opera raconteur David Scott Marley. Dramaturge of the Berkeley Opera, a man who envisions that community-based arts institution achieving grander status as a small professional company, just as Pinocchio dreamed of one day becoming a real boy.

Marley is the kind of artsy fortysomething Bohemian you'd expect to find among other offbeat literati hanging out at The Other Change of Hobbit, the science-fiction and fantasy bookstore on Shattuck Ave., and that's exactly right. His longtime partner, Dave Nee, manages that venerable shop, where Nee is also a founding partner, and the two men often discuss opera plots, apparently with the same intensity Trekkies bring to analyzing episodes, seasons and series.

This meeting of sci-fi and opera minds helps account for *The Riot Grrrl on Mars*, the Berkeley Opera production opening Friday, July 19 at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, directed by Andrew Morgan. Subtitled "A Space Opera in Two Acts," and originally produced by Berkeley Opera in 1997, *Riot Grrrl* is the product of Marley's wild imagination run rampant with far-out ideas about how to present old material in fresh ways.

As spacey and fanciful as it sounds, *Riot Grrrl* really is quite grounded. It's Marley's solid adaptation of Gioacchino Rossini's comic

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Librettist David Scott Marley based his opera *The Riot Grrrl on Mars* on Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*

Jane Philomen Cleland

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman
and Archie Texture

In the July issue of *W*, a revealing profile of eminent 96-year-old architect **Philip Johnson** and his longtime companion **David Whitney** leads off with this bold bulletin from Whitney, a remark he addressed to the notables gathered at a ritzy, private MoMA dinner: "I'm going to tell you something none of you knows. Philip is still good in the sack."

W's gushy visit to the pair's Big Sur retreat doesn't spare us the details of the couple's domestic bliss. "Inside, as a pleasant fire crackles, the gentlemen putter about the house." W reporter **James Reginato** has the audacity to call the pair "a sort of male version of the *Golden Girls* — a pop-culture reference at which Whitney carps ("Please!"), and of which Johnson seems oblivious ("What's that?") What does the reporter mean by *sort of male*?

Apparently, over the years, DW and PJ always did their own thing socially until, "at a lunch chez **Kitty Hart**, with **Jacqueline Onassis** at the table, the news anchor **Barbara Walters** castigated the architect for not bringing his lover to social functions."

"I'm going to kill that woman," Whitney says bluntly of Walters. "I didn't have to go to the parties until she got into the act."

At 21, Whitney graduated from RISD and moved into then-53-yr.-old Johnson's Manhattan apartment. "Four decades later, Johnson, stirring from a nap,



Behind every great man is another great man: Whitney and Johnson.

pipes up: "It seemed like a good idea at the time."

If it's still on newsstands, you can't miss the magazine: it's the one with that **non-homo-wrestling Scientistist movie star** on the cover, soaking wet, in a drenched and clingy tank top. We tried to look away, but, as with a car crash, we just had to look.

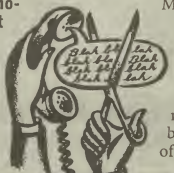
Muppet = Life

Wire services are abuzz with the news that the South African edition of *Sesame Street* will soon introduce its first **HIV+ Muppet** character. The upbeat female Muppet will join *Takalani Sesame* on September 30 for the start of its third season on the South African Broadcasting Corp.

Joel Schneider, vice president and senior adviser to the Sesame

Street Workshop, announced the new character last week at the 14th International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain. The Muppet, which has yet to have a finalized name, color or form, will deliver "appropriate" messages for the 3-7 age group, meaning that there will be no explicit mention of sex. So we can assume, for the record, that she will not be called **Pussy Monster**.

"We want to show that here is an HIV+ member of our community who you can touch and interact with," Schneider said, adding that talks are underway to introduce an HIV+ character to US viewers. Soon there will be an HIV+ Muppet community large enough to have its own magazine, *POS MUP*.



Star fucks

In her *New York* magazine profile with reporter **Amy Sohn**, comedian of the moment **Margaret Cho** talks about her relationships with women. "One was a telephone-repair woman. She had a hard hat and was totally butch. We had really fun sex. But often with women, it's not about that. We love each other, but we don't have sex. It becomes very *Heavenly Creatures*."

When talk turns to men, Cho is even more explicit. On director **Quentin Tarantino**: "He has a pretty big one." On singer **Chris Isaak**: "Huge one. Too big. Unpleasantly big. But really masterful."



Tony Curtis never tried men.

But, then question-popper **George Wayne** in *Vanity Fair* tries to get 77-year-old **Tony Curtis** to 'fess up to having sex with leading men, the movie star won't take the bait. Wayne asks, "Didn't you do **Cary Grant**?" Curtis says no. Wayne follows up, "You've been a Hollywood stud for decades, and you never had a homo affair?" "I attracted a lot of gay friends," admits Curtis, "but I never had any inclination."

Asked about cosmetic surgery (Wayne actually asks if he's had a testicle tuck), Curtis is more forthcoming: "I had to have some work done on my nose, but that was for a deviated septum from too much cocaine." Oh, just that.



Ellsworth Kelly in New York, 1958

Kelly green
(and red and...)

For the best optical buzz on a grand scale now on show in the Bay Area, SFMOMA's exhibition **Ellsworth Kelly in San Francisco** is big and beautiful in the museum's skylit 5th-floor galleries. Kelly is a modern master, bringing hard-edged planes of color together in eye-popping proximity to each other and the wall. The results are half-painting, half-sculpture.

This is a major show by any measure, augmenting the 22 works SFMOMA acquired from Kelly's personal collection with other important works from Bay Area collections. Even a newcomer to Kelly's work will find much to enjoy in the show's meticulous installation, in which the huge, shaped canvases are hung at precise angles and exact dimensions on the gallery wall. Curator of Painting and Sculpture **Madeline Grynsztein** advised reporters to return to the muse-

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THEATRE

'Pacific' enchantress

Gretha Boston plays Bloody Mary

by Richard Dodds

Gretha Boston is beginning to make a career finding dignity in roles that are often portrayed otherwise. First there was Queenie, originally played as a chortling overweight mammy, in the big-budget Broadway revival of *Show Boat*. Now she's playing the cartoonish Bloody Mary in a touring revival of *South Pacific* starring Robert Goulet.

"In the past, I think Bloody Mary's been made to be broader than she necessarily has to be," Boston said from San Diego, a stop on the tour arriving July 23 in San Francisco. "You still have to believe that she has this beautiful daughter and was vulnerable enough to conceive this child. So I've softened her a bit."

Critics across the country have been particularly enchanted with the opera-trained Boston's delivery of "Bali Ha'i," Bloody Mary's song designed to sell the romance of that special island to World War II sailors stationed nearby. "Hopefully when we do these revivals, we do bring something new for audiences who already love it and, believe me, know it."

Actually, before she was hired for this tour, Boston could not include herself in this group. "I had never seen *South Pacific*," said Boston, who grew up in a small Arkansas town with few opportunities to experience theater.

Nor did she have much chance to study up on the show. The musical was already on the road when, with just days' notice, she was in Houston learning the show. Her only preparation before joining the tour was to read "Fo' Dolla," one of James Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific* on which Rodgers and Hammerstein based their musical. "Nobody could tell me what a Tonkanese accent is, so you just have to make it up in your own mind, and be as convincing as you possibly can be."

She had freedom to create her own Bloody Mary, but within certain restrictions. "You have to walk a fine line coming into a show that's already running," Boston said. "You have to position



"I had never seen *South Pacific*!"

your character so you're not disruptive to what's already going on. Somehow I had to create a character that's believable inside me and to my fellow mates on the stage and to the audience. I think I've done a pretty good job based on the time I actually had to develop this character, and she's still developing."

Learning the ropes

Although in her 40s, Boston is actually something of a newcomer to the world of theater. She didn't commit to a life on stage until cast in *Show Boat* in 1995, and one of the things she revels in is the chance to learn from veterans. On *Show Boat*, that included Hal Prince, Robert Morse, John McMartin, and Elaine Stritch. In *South Pacific*, it's Robert Goulet.

"He and I have a time of it backstage," she said. "He is so funny, and has so many wonderful stories."

Boston is catching up on her theatrical lore because it took her nearly 10 years after arriving in New York from Arkansas to realize she was good enough to play with the pros. "I probably under-

estimated myself," she said. "But until you're ready, there's no point in even venturing out there."

Boston had been working at jobs in real estate and publishing while studying voice when she was surprised herself to be auditioning for the major revival of *Show Boat*. "I think I auditioned for them five times, and the last time Hal Prince and all the creative team was there. I sang for them, and then Hal came up on stage and said, 'It's going to be a pleasure working with you, Queenie.' The funny thing is, I really didn't know who Hal Prince was."

The fabled director had no immediate words of wisdom for Boston. "He admitted to me that he really didn't know how this character was going to play because, you know, they didn't want that stereotypical type thing and I wasn't cast that way. He let me do my thing, and it turned out okay."

Better than okay, in fact.

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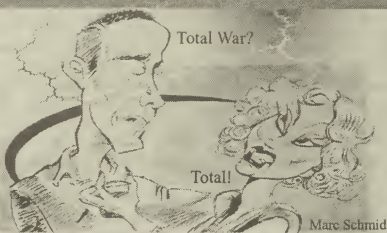
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Coming soon

Waiting for J.D. Flores

by Tim Pfaff

Now that the Lotfi Mansouri regime at the Opera is actually, not just ceremonially, over, it's possible for San Franciscans to renew hopes of hearing (and seeing) the important young singers who were unable to penetrate the dense thicket of Mansouri's so-called artistic administration. High on the list of Pamela Rosenberg's important catches is the young Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flores, who will appear on the War Memorial stage next June (the twinkling of an eye, in operatic scheduling terms, but an interminable wait once you know what's coming) in the ideal debut role of Don Ramiro in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. If his spine-tingling account of Ramiro's "Si, ritrovarla io giura," the final item on his brilliant *Rossini Arias* CD for Decca, conducted by Riccardo Chailly, is any indication — and consistent raves about his stage performances say it is — the company should start performances a half-hour early to leave time for the ovations.

Comparisons with Cecilia Bartoli are as right as they are inevitable. Like Bartoli, who also used Rossini as her calling card for her international debut in her mid-twenties, Flores doesn't just bring the instrument and the technique for this uniquely difficult music, he adds warmth, charm and almost superabundant amounts of personality. And, like Bartoli, he's said

to be a humble, affable person and a deeply collegial artist. Then there are the killer looks — but it's a CD we're talking about here.

One more Bartoli comparison. With music as torturous as Rossini's florid arias, where bare excuses for "melodies" are tarted up in endless roudelles of ornaments, leaps, and spitfire coloratura, singers fall into two types: the ones who make it sound hard, and the ones who make it sound easy. Flores, like Bartoli, is in the latter group, and while vocal exhibitionism gets its due (and then some), his singing is as beguiling as dazzling. It adds heart to the stunts. The limpid tune at the heart of Ramiro's aria — one of the music's few "moving" moments in the ordinary sense of the word — wins the kind of melting vocalism that signals true artistry.

For sheer bravura, check out his "Cessa di piu resistere" — an aria usually cut from *The Barber of Seville* for lack of a tenor who can sing it — which steals, piecemeal, the mezzo's show-stopping finale from, yes, *La Cenerentola*. Flores doesn't just nail it, he charms the pants off you (you wish) in the process. There's not a shred of trickery in his work, just consummate technique applied to a voice whose natural center is at a sufficiently high pitch that there's never a sense of his reaching for a note. Like all truly greatest tenors, Flores makes it sound like he's just dropping his sound onto the note — from above — which makes



Conductor Riccardo Chailly (left) and tenor Juan Diego Flores: bravura.

this fundamentally artificial music sound supremely natural.

It would be a loss if Rosenberg finished her Janacek cycle without the young Czech mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kozena appearing in it. But Kozena, who made her award-winning debut with a CD of Czech songs, including Janacek, is being surprisingly cagey about the Janacek stage roles she'll take. Meanwhile she's busy proving what else she can sing. With her latest CD, *Le belle immagini* (DG), she's staking her claim to the Mozart and Gluck arias that are her current core opera repertoire.

For all that, her best work is in four arias by Josef Myslivecek, a near contemporary of the other two composers, whose music she insisted DG include in the recital. This woman knows what she's about. It's the best stuff on the CD, and she leaves no doubt about its musical value, despite its relative neglect. (Sarah's lament from the oratorio *Abramo ed Isacco* is wrenchingly intense.)

The Gluck and Mozart are fine, but the singing doesn't extinguish memories of other artists

who have done more with the music — and it raises an uncomfortable question. As soon as the CD stops, I forget the sound of her voice. An immediately recognizable and memorable sound is the keystone of any great career. Kozena has artistry to burn, but burn it must. A single aria into Flores' CD, and I could imagine how he would sing every note of Verdi's Fenton (which he has) and

how it would sound. That's the stuff of which legends are made.

I can't mention Janacek without adding that, for me, the vocal record of the year has been Ian Bostridge's stunning account of *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*. Bostridge toured in a celebrated staged version in English, but the EMI recording is in the original Czech, which Bostridge delivers like a typically tormented native. Singing doesn't get more involved or complete than this. Further securing the unearthly (at times almost unendurable) power of the performance is the piano playing of Thomas Ades, the gay composer and pianist who is as important a musician as walks among us. He fills out the disc with some solo-piano Janacek of startling acuity. ▼

Out of this world

by Jason Serinus

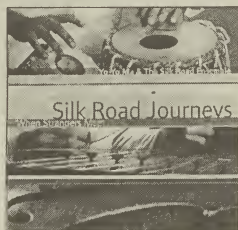
Silk Road Journeys: When Strangers Meet — Yo-Yo Ma & The Silk Road Ensemble (Sony)

World music? Crossover? Jettison the categories! This ear-opening recording, which originated with ethnomusicologists spending three years collecting material from composers and musicians in China and Central Asia, offers such an enlightening, ingratiating fusion of diverse influences that pigeonholers have no choice but to bow before its ceaselessly inspired delights.

Renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, whose collaborative creations with dancers and musicians from highly diverse backgrounds could teach UN peacemakers a thing or two, here presents us with the first disc from the Silk Road Ensemble. Its 12 tracks offer an international assemblage of 23 musicians performing traditional and modern works that reflect influences from Mongolia, China, Persia, Finland, Japan, Iran, Italy, and 21st-century performance practice. The ensemble includes Asians playing Western instruments, a Caucasian playing Indian tabla, a Japanese composer setting five Finnish folk songs, and a unique setting of the Italian Renaissance street song, "Chi passa per 'sta strada," played by an ensemble which includes Chinese lute (pipa), Indian drums (tabla), and Stradivarius cello.

Want to have your mind blown? Listen to Ganbaatar Khongorzul scale the sonic heights as she performs the short Mongolian Traditional love song that begins the disc. The woman's voice is a wonder. Not only can she cut through glass without leaving a single shard behind, but she's also capable of modulating volume and timbre with a mastery that will leave most singers envious.

Some of this music is sweet, some quite intense, with occasionally striking transitions of harmony and feeling. Many of the compositions, especially the traditional tracks from Mongolia, China, and Persia, offer harmonies and scales frequently encountered by lovers of "world music." In addition, there are eight original works, some spe-



cially commissioned for the project, which sometimes push the tonal envelope. There is also a brief "bonus," an excerpt from Tan Dun's score for the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

The most far-out work, inspired by the traditional music of Azerbaijan and the 20th-century avant-garde compositions of American John Cage, is Franghiz Ali-Zadeh's "Habil-Sayag (In Habil's Style)," named for contemporary kemanecheh (spike fiddle) player Habil Aliyev. The work features Yo-Yo Ma's cello evoking the sounds of the kemanecheh, and Joel Fan's prepared piano evoking traditional Azerbaijani and Middle Eastern instruments such as goshaga nagara (kettle drums), tar (long-necked lute), qanun (plucked zither) and oud (short-necked lute). Ma is a wonder here, maintaining consistently beautiful tone even when sawing away with relentless ferocity. Equally amazing is Fan on piano. Thanks to mutes, mallets and a string of glass beads inserted between piano strings, Fan produces sounds so chameleon-like that, until scrutinizing the liner notes, I was certain a kettle drum had been added to the mix.

Don't turn your volume up too loud at the start of the disc. The recording has a huge dynamic range, most evident when three percussionists get going in Byambasuren Sharav's 11-minute "Legend of Herlen." Those with audiophile systems will discover that multi-miking artificially places instruments in different acoustic spaces. Besides that drawback, this disc is a solid joy from start to finish. ▼

Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble perform at Stanford University's Memorial Auditorium on Sunday, November 3, 2:30 p.m. Tickets: (650) 725-2787.

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DANCE

Accidents can happen

Yannis Adoniou creates in the moment

by Michael McDonagh

The elevator in the Odd Fellows Hall on 7th and Market in San Francisco has that rarest of things — a real live elevator operator. He opens the door, and I get in. The lift ascends, stops at the fifth floor, and I get off to look for the studio where the San Francisco-based avant-garde dance company Kunst-Stoff is rehearsing their latest piece, *numerous aXidents per(Former)*. Kunst-Stoff premieres the new work July 27 at Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, part of Summerfest/Dance's West Wave Dance Festival 2002.

Hearing voices, I approach a door. A reddish-haired man walks towards me; I say I'm here to talk to the troupe's co-director Yannis Adoniou, who emerges, smiling behind thin, rimless glasses. He says please take a seat, and so I sit down in the studio's only chair, next to the mirror, which covers the entire wall. The dancers move about casually, some warming up, others talking. And then the rehearsal begins.

Everything's serious now. Especially Marcus Schuler's music on the boombox — a pulsing, almost Tibetan-sounding chant, with sharp interruptions like gunshots. Adoniou gives his five dancers (eight in the staged version) a card with seemingly random but poetic texts, like "What's a false step? How can steps be false?" One dancer reads from the standing mike, and another queues up, waiting. Adoniou gives the corps directions like, "Go to the frame," an open, silver thing on wheels. There will be a mirrored one, too. Dancer Kevin Cregan (the man I first talked to) and his partner, Nicole Bonadonna, do a romantic, Tchaikovsky-like duet. Many of the dancers have classical training. Other gestures are random and more modern, and the dancers execute their firm or tenuous steps — moves, really — with great precision and emotional focus. It's definitely a contemporary dance vocabulary, and one that's inherently graceful, too.

Down to the elements

After the rehearsal, Adoniou explains his intentions, and reflects. "Meaning is not in the movement, but in the state you're in when you're making the movement," a remark which may have something to do with his Greek roots. He was born in Athens in 1968. Greece's ancient dances, after all, always aimed at something elemental yet spiritual. The dancer-choreographer, with his thick, flat eyebrows, intense brown eyes, and black curling locks, like a *kouros*, certainly looks



Kunst-Stoff co-director Yannis Adoniou: "Every time, it's new."

the part — yes, he's gay, and yes, his family name means Adonis. He continues, "The dancer in *numerous aXidents per(Former)* doesn't have the ego anymore, he doesn't have that sense of, 'Oh, I'm performing,' because something exists beyond himself — and in this case, it's my voice."

"I don't want people to expect from me anything," he says softly but firmly. "I do have a history of dancing with Alonzo King's company Lines, so people know the style. I meet people on the street or see people in the studio, and they say, 'Oh, we'd like it if you could do that,' you know, something they saw me do, but that feels weird. Of course, it's a compliment, but does this person have an expectation, and do they want me to do something? But I'm not interested in creating a Yannis Adoniou style, not even a Kunst-Stoff style. The company is based on collaboration, so every time it's new, and we are surprised with ourselves. This piece, which I destroyed from the one I did last April, is about things you can't really predict or control."

Adoniou is also interested in heightening the work's accidental nature. And though it's fully thought out and carefully rehearsed, random things and un-

expected collisions are sure to occur. The choreographer is also intent on exploiting the unrepeatable and entirely eventful moment. To achieve this, he'll call out cues for his dancers, but what they do will depend on how it feels during the performance, in the house. Adoniou's tactic isn't aggression, but challenge. He wants to keep the audience, and certainly the dancers, on their toes. "I'm trying to create an environment where the dance can happen, and where it can exist specific to that environment."

Creating that environment is his job, but he also expects the audience to break down its wall of expectations. "I don't want the viewer to come in and see something that's made, and say I like it or I don't like it." In other words, be open, and present. And in these increasingly distracted times, where so much art, from Broadway to film to high-toned museum shows, is intent on telling us things we already knew, this can only be a good thing. Just disable your cell. At least, for just this now. ▼

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1960s, Boston was a child when the civil rights movement began taking hold. "I was one of the first students to ever integrate the Crossett school system," she said. "I had a couple of fights on the playground, and, as I remember, I won."

When she played Queenie in *Show Boat*, she thought about the women she knew back in Crossett to help shade her character. "I couldn't really do that with Bloody Mary, but I do have the strength of these women in her."

Boston vividly remembers a

moment not long after arriving in New York. She was getting her first sight of the Statue of Liberty as her mother said, "Well, baby, you've gone further than I ever thought you would."

"To me," said Boston, "that was a very defining moment. It's allowed me to go as far as my imagination can take me." ▼

South Pacific will run July 23-Aug. 18 at the Golden Gate Theatre. Tickets are \$34-\$77. Call 512-7770.

Gretha Boston

◀ page 31

Boston won the 1995 Tony Award for best supporting performance in a musical. "The Tonys weren't something we watched back in Crossett, but that night several hundred friends and family gathered at the Ramada Inn, and they had a lavish buffet and a big-screen TV. The Tonys came to Crossett that night, and it was great."

Growing up in Arkansas in the

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Still horny after all these years

Never say, 'Never Again'

by Brandon Judell

Christopher (Jeffrey Tambor), who's an exterminator by day, jazz musician by night, hasn't had sex for quite a while. Being over 50, he feels that he never again will fall in love, but orgasms shouldn't totally be out of his realm. Then one night, he has a dream where he's having the best sex of his life. Just when he's about to come, he realizes his dream partner is a guy. Oh, no! Is Christopher queer?

When he tells a buddy about his experiences, the pal asks, "Are you thinking of sucking dicks?"

Christopher: "I'm thinking of starting off with a chick with a dick."

Pal: "You are not gay. You are fucked up."

Well, Christopher tries experimenting with a "chick with a dick" prostitute. The results are less than definitive. How about gay bars, then?

In a lively homo ale venue, Christopher is surprisingly a hit with the guys hunting for out-of-shape daddies, but then he spots a possibility. A really hot chick with a dick, named Grace. Now, Grace (Jill Clayburgh), a real woman who wound up in a gay bar by mistake, thinks Christopher is gay,



Jeffrey Tambor and Jill Clayburgh meet cute at a gay pub.

and vice versa. Is this a healthy foundation upon which a relationship between two neurotic heterosexuals can grow? You bet it is.

What *Never Again*, which is not without its structural lapses, has going for it is charm. Even seeing Clayburgh running about with a strap-on dildo has you smiling empathetically. Sort of an *American Pie* for AARP members,

this light comedy fills a vacuum in American films. Yes, older folks with a little loose flesh and a few wrinkles still copulate and love. And it can be fun watching them do so.

Now all we need is a flick about elderly queers in heat. No, *The Dresser* doesn't count. ▼

Opens Friday.

True confessions

Yvan Attal says, 'My Wife is an Actress'

by David Lambie

Yvan Attal doesn't mind your calling his first feature film, *My Wife is an Actress*, a screwball comedy, doesn't mind admitting to having been inspired a bit by Woody Allen, or having his name mentioned in the same sentence with Hawks and Capra, two guys who invented the screwball genre the last time laughs and money were both in short supply.

Attal, born in Israel to French parents, doesn't mind if his penis becomes a matter of discussion, although he calls it his "sex." Sitting in a luxury hotel suite with the actress Charlotte Gainsbourg, who plays the wife in the title, and who in real life is Attal's actual wife, the filmmaker insists that the film is entirely fiction, that Gainsbourg's and his real lives are not on display. But his penis, although not on display in the film, was the proximate inspiration for *My Wife's* most offbeat and funny moment. It's a scene where a fictional film crew sheds their clothes to calm the anxieties of the fictional actress who's facing a torrid sex scene with a famous British actor, played by Terence Stamp. The joke is that the all-nude love scene rolls for an all-nude crew precisely when the paranoid husband (Attal) visits the set to assure himself that his wife's job making pretend-love isn't a threat to their marriage or his sanity.

Attal says it all goes back to when, as an actor, a director decided his penis should be shot



Yvan Attal, Terence Stamp, and Charlotte Gainsbourg in *My Wife...*

closeup. "I was supposed to go to a fireplace to take a postcard, it was a spy story and we needed to see something on the postcard, and because I was on the bed I was supposed to be naked. I get up from the bed naked, go to the fireplace and take the postcard, and because of the place of the camera, the director asked me to put the postcard just beside my sex. So on the frame, it was in Cinemascope, it was my sex and the postcard, really big onscreen. So I went to see the director and I said, 'Look it's not possible to do that.' And he stopped to tell me, 'You censor me, you tell me how I have to shoot that scene?' like the

scene in my film, really. And I told him, 'Okay, I'll do it if you shoot the shot naked, too.'

Attal says the toughest thing about directing a comedy is remembering what you thought was funny at the time you wrote it. "For example, the nude scene: I couldn't laugh, I thought it was completely fucked, I thought I didn't have the scene, but I said, 'Let's trust what made me laugh,' the first impression I had."

Family line

Charlotte Gainsbourg is used to the lines between fact and fiction being somewhat blurred in

next page ►

Horrors almighty

'Cinemuerte' comes to San Francisco

by Gary Morris

Canada has always had its share of bad press, and rightly so, thanks to questionable exports like Bryan Adams and Gordon Lightfoot. But all is forgiven, since our northern neighbor can also claim the glories of *Kids in the Hall*, the hunky Royal Mounted Police, and now the 4th annual *Cinemuerte* horror-film festival. Vancouver-based *Cinemuerte*, according to the press notes, is "poised to expand its operations and traumatize San Francisco." Certainly a worthy goal, but are jaded locals even capable of trauma? *Cinemuerte* plays July 18-20 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room.

There are six features in the local version of the fest; let's look at the terror quotient of four of them. Directed by Stuart Gordon, *Dagon* (2002) was supposed to follow Gordon's gruesome black comedy *Re-Animator* (1985), but it was apparently hard to get funding for a film about a cult of fish people. Based on two stories by eternal horror fave H. P. Lovecraft (the title story and "The Shadow over Innsmouth"), *Dagon* shipwrecks a nerd-Everyman, Paul (cute Ezra Godden), onto a small, strange island inhabited by people who have chucked Christianity in favor of worshipping *Dagon* (historically, the fish-god of the Philistines). While we don't exactly see *Dagon* (there was only enough budget for his tentacles), we do see the effects of this randy creature on a once-thriving culture. From a sunny, agrarian society, they declined into gross, fish-like creatures living in a squalid village of squat, rotting houses in seemingly perpetual darkness.

Paul is on the run from these miscreants, trying to save himself and his girlfriend, captured by the freaks. The "traumatizing" part (one of the grosser scenes in recent memory) comes when one of the character's skin is excruciatingly removed while he's still alive (and screaming). This makes up for some of the cheesy CGI effects. What does work is the splendid set design, a miracle of rot and rain. There's also a Barbara Steele wannabe mermaid-monster who'll stop at nothing to screw poor Paul. Lovecraft, a notorious sexophobe, might have been appalled at the tits & ass, but would probably have applauded Gordon's excellent atmospherics and grue.

Kitsch appliance

Moving back a few decades, the fabulous Mario Bava is represented by the ridiculously named *Five Dolls for an August Moon* (1970). What Bava lacks in title-picking, he more than makes up for in bravura visuals. This one is a veritable catalog of Italian Pop-



Dagon: gross, fishlike creatures living in a squalid village of rotting houses.

style of the period, all lovingly rendered with Sirkian lighting and gorgeous compositions. The story is a shameless lift of Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*—this time it's some nonsense about people being killed off over a "million-dollar formula." But really, it's just an excuse to feature unbelievable architecture, décor, wigs and furniture. The real stars of the film are not the anonymous (and absurdly dubbed) actors, but the sleek cavernous rooms, modernist spiral staircase, round revolving bed, marbled caftans, and a whole array of '60s high-style décor (with occasional forays into kitsch). Bava constantly showcases the furnishings at the expense of the actors and the action. He perversely shoots most of a pivotal fight scene through a stunning (and obscuring) lattice-work. Bored by a conversation, he ignores the actors and pulls the camera far back to show off the fantastic setting. There's some gore here—a crowded meat locker full of bodies—but no trauma, and no need for one. An irresistible Italo-pop score adds to the fun. There's also a tasty dyke angle for Bava's many lesbian fans.

Walerian Borowczyk is not a household word (unless you live in a halfway house), and it's not likely *The Beast* (1975) will make him one. This legendary film was banned in Britain on its release. What was the problem? Perhaps the literal horse dicks in the opening scene of a stallion mounting a mare? A pederastic old priest smooching with a nubile youth? A ravishing naked girl giving a very long blow job (in lurid closeup) to the title creature, a sort of giant rat-man? The film is a demented mix of the Marquis de Sade in its vitriolic anticlericalism, and *Beauty and the Beast* in its quasi-zoophilia, but going much further than Cocteau. Borowczyk was an

equal-opportunity offender, constantly returning to the image of horses screwing and the "beast" getting head. There's also a black butler, a very un-p.c. fuckhound who says "yassuh." Penis-potters will appreciate the sight of his hard cock.

Coach and company

Moving to presumably safer territory, we come to *Night Warning* (1982). William Asher (husband of Bewitched's Elizabeth Montgomery, and the show's director) only made one foray into the horror genre, but it's a doozy. Billy (Christy McNichol's brother Jimmy) has been raised since age 2 by his pathologically possessive Aunt Cheryl (Susan Tyrrell) after his parents' mysterious death. Billy's a star basketball player with a gay coach he adores. Cheryl kills a man she claims tried to rape her (he turns out to be gay, too); and a homophobic cop, Carlson (Bo Svenson), tries to pin the murder on Billy, believing Billy, the coach, and the dead alleged rapist were sexually involved. The queer angle is handled with surprising subtlety and power for the period, with the film clearly taking the side of Billy and the two gay men against Carlson. His smug Sadism makes him a great villain, but the film's nerve center is Susan Tyrrell in a brilliant performance. Many a female star tried her hand at horror starting in the 1960s. But Tyrrell, who could wield an ax (and a poker, and a butcher knife) better than Joan Crawford or any of the horror divas, stands alone in making her crazed, desperate monster both troublingly human and terrifying. ▼

Cinemuerte plays Thurs.-Sat., July 18-20, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. at the YBCA Screening Room. Call (415) 978-ARTS.

Wife is Actress

◀ previous page

her life and career. Born to French singer/actor Serge Gainsbourg and British actress Jane Birkin, Gainsbourg starred in *The Cement Garden*, shot by her uncle, Andrew Birkin, and based on Ian McEwan's emotionally disturbing novel in which a teenage brother and sister begin an incestuous af-

fair following the death of their parents. Gainsbourg was also acclaimed as the adolescent star of Claude Miller's *The Little Thief* (based on a posthumous script by Francois Truffaut), and for the title role in Franco Zeffirelli's 1996 remake of *Jane Eyre*.

For gay men of a certain age, Terence Stamp will always be the insanely lovely Billy Budd, about to die for the crime of arousing Robert Ryan in Peter Ustinov's

classic film. For a younger generation, Stamp may always shine as the defiantly staid old queen in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. For Gainsbourg, working with the British icon on *My Wife* was an odd experience. "He was very mysterious and quiet. I didn't see much of him, he was very discreet." ▼

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Busting out on Reality TV

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It's definitely a Reality TV summer. Realism hit a crescendo last week as Dick Cheney got hoisted publicly on his own petard. Judicial Watch, the same conservative watchdog group that paid Paula Jones to come out of her tell-all-about-Clinton closet, has brandished their irons at Cheney, accusing him of cooking the books at Halliburton in much the same way Ken Lay did at Enron.

It was, as Martha Stewart used to say, a good thing. We like the "turnabout is fair play" resolve of Judicial Watch (members of which were frequent guests on the just-axed *Politically Incorrect*), but we also liked seeing members of the Bush team squirm. The Prez himself had just stood in the bully pulpit on Wall Street (sending the stock market into an absolute freefall) and proclaimed all such

dealings criminal. It's always fun to watch Bush press secretary Joseph Goebbels, oops, we mean Ari Fleischer, defend his Führer in the most dismissive and condescending manner possible.

The Bush team hates the press more than any Administration since Nixon's. We think Donald Rumsfeld really got that broken arm from slamming some journalist.

We're hoping that the TV spectacle of Bush dodging questions about his own past securities problems while dissing other corporate entities on the street of dreams might actually send his approval rating into the same kind of freefall his Wall Street chat sent the stockmarket into. So far he's got that Teflon thing down. Even Sen. John Mc-

Cain (R-Ariz), who has appeared on every TV show imaginable except for the Anna Nicole Smith reality series, talking about how Congress has to get corporate America to ante up, was still supporting Bush. This despite the fact that the national debt clock has begun ticking again on Times Square. What will it take to shake the confidence of Americans in the Bush management?

Apparently killing children in party dresses in Afghanistan wasn't enough, and losing between 40%-70% of America's savings isn't enough. What will it take to wake up America? The lack of dissent isn't just troubling, it's shocking.

Police story

Americans are doomed to chant George Santayana in the afterlife: repeating history again and again, despite seeing our mistakes nightly on TV. Did we learn nothing from the Rodney King beating and its aftermath? Videotape continues to air nationwide of the Inglewood, California beating by several police of 16-year-old Donovan Jackson. Less gruesome than the King beating, perhaps, simply because it wasn't as lengthy, but no less excruciating to watch, as Jackson, already handcuffed and prone on the back of a police car, gets punched square in the face. Racism, always simmering just below the surface in the US, once again brought to the fore as the black Jackson got pummeled by white officers. Reality TV we would prefer not to see.

It appears the Irish will be chanting that same Santayana mantra. Last week's marches by Protestants in Northern Ireland were bloody and violent, as they are each July, commemorating a

17th-century victory of Protestants over Catholics. Fire and acid bombs, shootings, beatings, assaults, riots: it looked like a Mad Max film, but sadly was just more sectarian violence. Viewing the Troubles in Northern Ireland on the nightly news last week was a subtle reminder that there remains one place on the planet where the religious violence isn't Islamist.

Speaking of violence, *Nightline* aired an extremely disturbing exposé of videogame violence at week's end (still available on ABC-news.com). The game in question, *Grand Theft Auto 3*, is currently America's most popular video game. It has an M rating, which means it can't be sold to those under 17, but all the boys interviewed for the piece were, of course, under 17. The game features anti-woman, anti-gay and racist violence, yet has managed to fly under the radar 'til now. The object: to kill as many people as

tured him and his family, provided an extraordinary perspective on the world and individual responsibility. Joyful, thoughtful, spontaneous, judicious and deeply, truly spiritual, Tutu reminds us that justice can be achieved by a fight well and humanely fought, and that integrity is always the best defense against injustice.

We hate to seem like a flunky for ABC, but this summer all the fun shows are on Fox, and all the serious ones are on ABC. NBC and CBS have reruns of the good sitcoms and dramas if you missed them during the real season. Thus we again highly recommend *Houston Medical*, which is doing a fabulous job of dispelling the myth that there are no African American or women physicians in the US. This stellar Tuesday-night hour is riveting. The best reality show on the air. (*American Idol* is the most fun.)

The same cannot be said of the

South African Bishop Desmond Tutu lambasted the Church for using homosexuality as a stick to beat its members with.

possible in the time allotted. Extra points are given for shooting someone's head off, as opposed to just wounding them. As one young boy exclaimed, with too bright a gleam in his eye, his palms get sweaty and he gets really excited as he continues to kill and maim. One "fun" aspect of the game: The player gets to pick up a prostitute, screw her, follow her to a park, beat her up and steal back his money, and then kick, beat and shoot her to death.

We hate to sound like the old Tipper Gore, but we found all this violence directed toward women, people of color and queers more than a bit disturbing. The psychologists queried about the game were pretty succinct; it doesn't teach kids to get out their violent instincts, it teaches them to hone them. The object of the game is to maim and murder. Somehow we are pretty sure we don't want our kids playing quite so rough.

Noble prize

There is a flip side to all this brutal TV reality. We're enjoying ABC's new addition to *Nightline*, *Up Close with Ted Koppel*, which debuted July 8. Koppel spent two nights last week interviewing South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Ever outspoken, yet somehow able to speak out in a fashion that draws in his audience, Tutu softly lambasted the South African government for its do-nothing response to AIDS, lambasted the Church for using sexuality (especially homosexuality) as a stick to beat its members with, fought back tears as he discussed his years fighting Apartheid, which culminated in the past two years with his heading the Truth and Reconciliation hearings in South Africa. He asserted in his quiet and forceful way that God hung out with the dispossessed, and as such was pretty much a renegade. This man who survived an occupation far longer and more violent than that of Israel over the Palestinians, and yet never engaged in a single act of violence against those who threatened his children and tor-

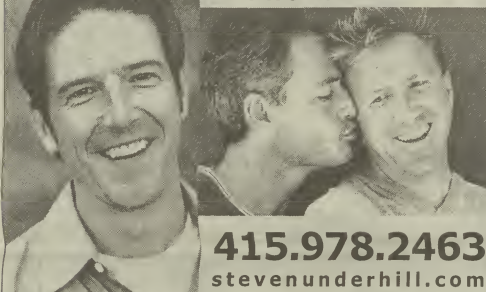
third go-round of CBS's cloying and disturbing *Big Brother*, which debuted this week. This program, matroned with SS-style charm by morning show newscaster Julie Chen, makes *The Real World* look serious. We are fairly sure that contestants are ranked by vapidly and superficiality. This isn't even a show one loves to hate. This is just a show to pass.

One more reality tidbit. The July 4th shooting at the El Al counter in LAX brought out the Pat Buchanan in us. Billions of our tax dollars are being spent each year trying to keep deserving immigrants out of this nation — primarily Mexicans, Cubans and other South Americans who are desperate to make a living for themselves and their families, and who literally risk their lives every day to get into this country to work at jobs that make most of us shudder. Yet the INS seems intent on granting visas to those whose hatred for the US is documented before they ever arrive in this country (Saddam Hussein's stepson?), like the perpetrator of the El Al massacre, who tried to burn the American flags flying from his apartment building. Call us crazy, but we think the peril lies not South of the Border, but Mideast of it. And we have yet to see a newscast in the past year that suggests otherwise.

Finally, we were intrigued by Sunday's *Meet the Press* minute which featured the Republican governor of California in 1952 discussing the then-Republican National Convention being held in his state. That governor? Earl Warren, who would later be appointed Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court by President Eisenhower. A decade later, the South would be peppered with signs reading, "Impeach Earl Warren," because he had made integration the law of the land and had become the most liberal Chief Justice in US history. It was a fascinating moment, courtesy of NBC, and a reminder that history is far from static. Given what we've witnessed on TV this week, that gives us just enough hope to keep on. Stay tuned. ▼

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BOOKS

Mr. Waters' neighborhood

by Jim Nawrocki

Filthy: The Weird World of John Waters by Robt L. Pela; Alyson Publications, 209 pages, \$15.95

I bumped into John Waters once. Literally. I was with a friend in a used bookstore that used to be on Castro Street. My friend grabbed my arm and pointed to the nondescript man browsing the shelves right next to me. "That's John Waters!" he whispered excitedly. I didn't believe him. Then he pointed out that Waters was in town for a film festival. I looked again. It was Waters alright, but if my friend hadn't clued me in, I wouldn't have known it. What amazed me about that encounter was that Waters — the notorious director of *Pink Flamingos*, *Female Trouble*, and other cinematic classics — looked so ordinary.

Waters' life and work are anything but ordinary, and both are the subject of a new book, *Filthy: The Weird World of John Waters*, by Robt L. Pela (for some reason, Pela omits the "e" in his first name). The book is a chatty, entertaining look at the career of a man who has made a unique, indelible mark on American popular culture. With such rich material, it would be difficult to write a book about Waters and not be entertaining, and one has to wonder if Pela left anything out. The book is part biography, part film study, and it's written in a casual, journalistic style that includes ample input from Waters' co-conspirators and fans. Pela even inserts himself into the book, at one point introducing himself by name, a technique that makes the book feel like a guided tour of a very strange place.

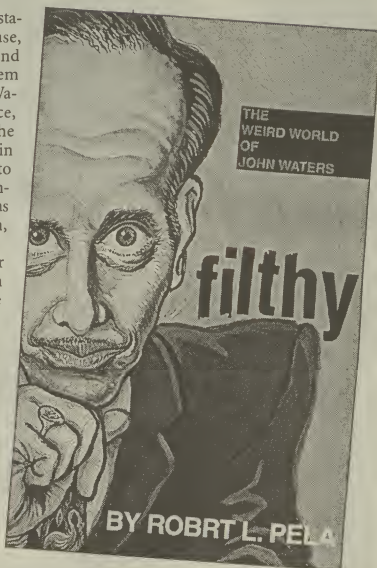
Pela presents a more-or-less straightforward trajectory of Waters' life, beginning with a childhood in which the future director's odd obsessions manifested themselves early on. He describes Waters' fascination with car crashes and the macabre, as well as the boy's early attraction to show business. Hard to believe, but Waters was actually quite a fan of Howdy Doody. Less surprising are the revelations about Waters'

youthful outlaw status. Drug use, shoplifting and general mayhem were staples of Waters' adolescence, and many of the friends he made in school went on to become major influences, as well as participants in, his films.

Waters never shied away from controversy; he seemed to court it, and was always unafraid of pushing the envelope when it came to what is often referred to as "family values" and "community standards." He was one of the first people to spoof the JFK assassination, for example, an act that apparently earned the lifelong resentment of Jacqueline Kennedy. In another early film, Waters made fun of the untimely death of Art Linkletter's daughter. Perhaps the most infamous bit of Waters' shock cinema, though, is the final scene of *Pink Flamingos*, in which Divine (Waters' most famous "star") eats a piece of dog dropping fresh from the pooch's orifice. Pela describes this with an entire chapter of quotations, from Divine and others, about the incident.

Colorful circle

Pela presents a considerable amount of material on the *dramatis personae* of Waters' career. Divine and Mink Stole are two prominent figures, but there are other, lesser players who also get their chance to speak, and this cast of colorful eccentrics is one of the most intriguing aspects of the book. Pela's description of certain Waters fanatics is especially amusing. There is, for example, a man who believes that Waters regularly assumes the form of a puff of smoke, enters his cat's anus, and extracts movie plots and other



ideas from the animal's brain.

Pela delivers his study of Waters with an amusing array of material and varying modes of presentation. There are chapters that consist mostly of interview transcripts, and chapters that seem to alternate between cultural analysis and straight reporting. The book also includes a detailed filmography of Waters' work, and a section that identifies a number of recurring themes, motifs and influences evident in Waters' films. This motif section reads more like a series of notes than a serious, detailed examination of the director's work. Indeed, Pela seems to take on several projects at once, and spreads himself somewhat thin as a result. A detailed examination of Waters' work would make a nice book in itself, as would a study of the Waters fandom. Waters purists might object to the thinness of this book, and many will no doubt find something in it to disagree with. Still, for longtime fans and newcomers alike, Pela has provided a helpful guide to the unconventional, quirky career of an American original. ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

um between 2 and 5 p.m., when the afternoon light filters through the skylights. "It's as if the paintings have died and gone to painting heaven."

Go figure: while the museum's Yoko Ono press conference last month was packed to the rafters with every conceivable journalist in the Bay Area, attendance at the press preview for the Kelly show was slim. The artist answered questions patiently and retailed stories about Paris in the '50s. With the press corps packed into a waiting elevator, Kelly's partner Jack wisely opted for the next car up. (Through January 5, 2003.)

Walk away

We are not wowed by the AIDS Walk ad campaign that features straight celebrities touting their own compassion. Yeah, we're so sure Madonna and Whoopie really do the Walk every

year. Prize-winner for least stomachable quote is undoubtedly John "Sexaholix" Leguizamo, who says he walks "for my children." That's right, do the AIDS charity thing, but never pass up a chance to remind us you're a heterosexual. Hmmm, het celebs as headliners: Is the AIDS Walk taking a page from the *Advocate* playbook?

Nice capades

Taking a break from producing his big shoe with Ann Miller next Friday at the Castro, Hostess Huestis received a postcard from filmmaker John Waters, still vacationing in Pee-Town. Thrilled with the prospect of *Hairspray: The Musical* turning into a big hit when it opens on Broadway next month (if smoked ham Mel Brooks could do it, why not Waters?), he ponders future possibilities.

"What about *Pink Flamingos: The Ice Show*?" Waters suggests. OT thinks it's a terrific idea, and we nominate Tonya Harding to play

Babs, the Filthiest Person in the world; Nancy Kerrigan as Connie Marble, the Mink Stole part; and dare we propose Mr. Marcus as Edith the Egg Lady? Has anyone seen *Leather on Ice*? But who, oh who will play the skating dogturd?

Bubbles over Guerneville

The sparkling-wine buzz of Russian River this weekend is that chanteuse Connie Champagne will be performing her Judy Garland show under the stars at the Triple R (Russian River Resort) during the 5-day-long Lazy Bear 2002 gathering. The Judy show will include a tribute to gay hero Mark Bingham, with Judy's famous "Dear Mr. Gable"/"You Made Me Love You" number reworked to "Dear Mr. Bingham." It's what they call in the biz a showstopper. Singer Mark Weigle opens for Champagne on Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$15, \$10 w/LB dogtag) at the door, RRR, corner of 4th & Mill Streets, Guerneville. ▼

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OUT&ABOUT



Ginger Eckert and Joel Mullennix perform in Word for Word's production of *Lady's Dream* by Tobias Wolff, at Magic Theatre. See Thursday.



Laura Hope plays in The Shee Theatre Company's *Augustine (Big Hysteria)* at the EXIT on Taylor. See Friday

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Attention ladies

It's almost like the old days (back in the early '80s) when Valencia Street was a favorite haunt of dykes, when that level corridor through the Mission District rivaled the Castro as a hotspot of homosexuality, but with a remarkably different gender bent.

Thank goddess for real women, especially dykes, who truly are the lifeblood of this town's performing arts scene. Guys are good at some things, like staging beer busts hosted by "celebrity" drag queens, making crude jokes that pass for comedy, and playing bottoms in the endless hunt for elusive tops. When it comes to organizing serious performing arts festivals, however, women are tops all the way.

This next Wednesday through Friday, July 24-28, real women will be taking over the Mission, putting on a heap of performances at a slew of venues as part of "**Ladyfest Bay Area**," an ambitious stew of music, film and video, visual art, performance art, and workshops made by women and transfolk.

Highlights of this multifaceted event include the bands Bratmobile, The Donnas, and The Gossip; films by Miranda July; a MadCat Women's International Film Festival Retrospective; artwork by Roberta Gregory and Trina Robbins; and a "How to Be An Ethical Slut" workshop by *Ethical Slut* author Dossie Easton.

You'll find action happening at Mission Creek Cafe (968 Valencia St.), the LGBT Community Center (1800 Market St.), Brava! For Women in the Arts, Spanganga Gallery (3376 19th St.), Artists' Television Access (992 Valencia St.), CELLspace (2050 Bryant St.), Pond Gallery (214 Valencia St.), New College Theater (777 Valencia St.), Mission High School Auditorium (3750 18th St.), and Victoria Theatre (2961 16th St.).

My personal favorites include Miranda July, who (to crib from her bio) makes performances, movies, recordings and combinations of these things. Her videos have screened internationally at the MoMA, the Guggenheim Museum, and the International Film Festival Rotterdam. Her "Nest of Tens" was included in the 2002 Whitney Biennial, in addition to a sound installation commissioned for the show. July has also directed a video for the all-girl rock band Sleater Kinney. In 1995 she founded "Joanie 4 Jackie," a movie distribution network for independent women movie makers. This project has allowed women of all ages and backgrounds to exchange their movies and give each other support. For the past three years July has collaborated with DJ and sound artist Zac Love. She is hard at work on a feature-length movie, some short stories, a new performance and a few other similar things. She lives in Portland, Oregon. ▼



Filmmaker Miranda July

Tickets for Ladyfest: 3-day passes are \$55-\$90 sliding; 5-day passes are \$70-\$100. Buy 3 passes (either kind) and get \$10 off each one. Info: 820-1697; www.ladyfestbayarea.org

Fri 19

Luna Sea Theater

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project presents the 4th annual "Dyke-Drama Festival," featuring short plays by and about dykes, directed by Claudia L. Vierra Allen and Yolanda S. Vierra Allen. A two-part festival with different plays in each part. Part I (July 19-20 & 26-7): "Fat Fuck," by Sondra Solovay and Timnah Steinman; "My Sister Myself" by Robyn Brooks; "KVCH Radio" by Aishe Berger; and "Tying The Knot" by Claudia L. Vierra Allen. \$11 adv.; \$14 door. 8pm. 2940 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 863-2989; www.lunasea.org

Yerba Buena Gardens

The Lamplighters perform Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera *The Pirates of Penzance* and highlights from other G&S favorites as part of "Yerba Buena Gardens Festival." Bring blanket & picnic lunch. Free. 12:30pm. Also on July 26. Info: www.ybpf.org

Young, Loud and Proud

"Taking It Over," the Seventh annual Young, Loud & Proud (YLP) conference for LGBTQ youth, July 19-21. Learn about great projects, work and fun activities happening around the country, talk and build community with other LGBTQ youth. Primarily for LGBTQ youth aged 25 and under. This conference is entirely organized & produced by youth. Free for all youth 25 & under (donations greatly appreciated). \$50 adults. Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd St. (btwn Valencia and Bartlett). A Kick-Off Party and Dance will be held at the

LGBT Community Center (1800 Market St.). Info: 703-6150 x 21; www.lyric.org

Long Haul, Berkeley

"Benefit for Gay Shame" featuring live queer bands Mutilated Manikins, Veronica Lippgloss + The Evil Eyes, Dime Life Crooks, Ralowe Ampu (of Deep Dickollective), Gruk (from Chico) and Creepy Crawly Claw. All ages. \$5. 6pm (early show): Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck (2 blocks east of Ashby Bart) Berkeley.

Club Fab, Guerneville

"Viva Variety 26," benefitting Lazy Bear Weekend charities. Hosted by Steve Murray, with the talented performances of: Peggy L'Eggs (performance art); Mark Wiegler (singer/songwriter); Alan Reade (performance art); Matthew Martin (theatre chameleon); Janis Lipton (comedy); Danny Williams (comedy); The Whoa Nellies featuring Connie Champagne & Leigh Crow (pop music); and Velocity Circus' Azure (fire act). \$20. 8pm. Info: 415-863-0741 ext. #2.

21 Grand, Oakland

Shane Star Productions presents "The Drag King Show & Film Fund Party," featuring performances by Fresh! & his dancers; Jake from Boy Wonder; The Kings Of Hearts; Rusty Hips; Jimmy Moreson; and DJ Divinity. Doors open 8pm; show at 9pm: All ages. 449B 23rd St., (btwn Telegraph & Broadway, Oakland. Info: 510-547-8566.

EXIT on Taylor

The Shee Theatre Company presents "Augustine (Big Hysteria)" by Anna Furse, the story of Augustine, the 19th century housemaid and hysteric cele-

brated by famed neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot for her dramatic display of "Grand Hysterie" in popular public lectures at his Paris asylum, where Charcot's student, Sigmund Freud, is developing his own theories on the cause behind Augustine's mysterious Hysteria. \$15-\$20. Thru Aug. 17. 277 Taylor St. (btwn Mason & Eddy). Tix/info: 999-8870; www.theshee.org

Foothill College, Los Altos Hills

Foothill Music Theatre presents "On the Town," Leonard Bernstein's big, bright, brassy tale of three World War II sailors determined to make the most of a 24-hour shore leave in the Big Apple. Directed by Jay Manley; music direction by Catherine Snider; choreography by Tyler Risk. "On the Town" is an early example of the "integrated" musical (one in which the music and dance are integral to the story) that began the year before with "Oklahoma!" It uses a wide variety of dancing and singing styles, from jazz to ballet to swing, all blended into a story about love, youth, hope and war on the horizon. \$20 (\$18 seniors/students). 8pm Thu.-Sat; 2:30pm Sun. Thru Aug. 11. Foothill College, Smithwick Theater, 12345 El Monte Rd. (El Monte exit West, off Hwy 280), Los Altos Hills. Tix/info: Box Office, 650-948-4444; charge-by-phone, 650-949-7414.

Sat 20

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Portola Redwoods State Park Hike. Enjoy an island of towering 1,000-year-old redwoods surrounded by year-round creeks. It's a moderate 12-mile hike with a 1,400-ft. elevation gain. Meet at 8:45am below the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Palladium @ 525 Harrison

Grand opening: Gus Bean unleashes "Palladium," a weekly showcase of performances by "the hottest deejays, sexiest strippers, raunchiest show-offs, midgets, monsters, hustlers and freaks." Meet bodybuilder/porn star Scott Gunz at the door. Inside: A new state-of-the-art sound/lighting/laser system. Main Room: DJ Tracy Young, best known for remixing Madonna hits and her sets at the Crowbar in Miami; with DJ Lewis (Sugar) Detour opening with progressive house. Sideshow: DJs Gryder & Hughes (Metropolis), with opening set by Joseph Lee (Progress). Installations, live freak performances, bondage daddies, drummers, contortionists, robots, aerialists, clowns and more. VIP room for trannies, New Wavers, drag queens, bodybuilders and punks, with DJs Mister & Sister Transistor (Fake) playing "Electro-Clash" sounds, and DJs Jim Hopkins (twitche recordings.com) and 'Dangerous Dan (1984) giving homage to Kraftwerk, Depeche Mode and other '80s synthmasters. VIP hostesses: Juanita MORE! and Heklina. Puerto Rican spitfire Putanesca guards the VIP velvet rope. \$20 gen'l admission (\$15 b4 11pm w/flyer). 10pm-6am. Info: guspresents.com

Tango Tango

The Crib: Spinnin Hip-hop, Old School, Underground and Dancehall for queer folks and friends. Resident DJ Ai; Guest DJ Em-1. \$8 (free with flyer b4 10:30pm; Geminis free all night). 9pm-2 am. 21 + w/ID. 1550 California St. (at Polk St.). Club info: 775-0442.

Sun 21

Sigmund Stern Grove

The Stern Grove Festival presents the San Francisco Ballet in its only Bay Area summer appearance. Featuring highlights from the company's repertory, including *A Garden* (choreography by Mark Morris), *Paquita* pas de deux (Marius Petipa), *White Swan* pas de deux from Swan Lake, Act II (Lev Ivanov), *Two Bits* (Helgi Tomason), and *Rubies* (excerpted from the full-length ballet *Jewels*, with choreography by George Balanchine), plus pre-performance talk with the artists at noon. Free. Concert at 2pm. Arrive early to claim picnic space (caution: some steep, rugged terrain). 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd. Info: 252-6252; www.sterngrove.org



The cast of "Sex in the City" prepare to act out at the 4th annual "DykeDrama Festival," at Luna Sea Theater. See Friday.



Bratmobile (Lookout! Records) band members Erin Smith, Allison Wolfe, and Molly Neuman take part in "Ladyfest," a jam-packed performance weekend kicking off this Wednesday and continuing through Sunday at multiple locales in the Mission District. See "Calendare" and daily listings.

A Different Light Bookstore

Don Weise discusses his bestselling and groundbreaking book *Black Like Us*. Free. 2pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891

Mon 22

SF LGBT Community Center

"QComedy," an evening of queer comedy hosted by Nick Leonard, with Doug Holsclaw, Marti MacGibbon, Melanie Borba, David Guiney, Adam Sandel and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 865-5633; www.qcomedy.com

Tue 23

Geary Theatre

Return engagement: Eve Ensler performs her celebrated, provocative play, "The Vagina Monologues," giving voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, and thoroughly human stories, based on interviews with a diverse group of women exploring the humor, power, pain, wisdom, outrage and mystery of vaginas. \$20-\$60. 8pm. Thru Aug. 11. 415 Geary St. Tix/info: 433-9500; www.theatreonthesquare.com

Wed 24

SF LGBT Community Center

"Ladyfest Bay Area Kick-off Party" featuring music and spoken word by: Mirah, Jody Bleyle (ex-Team Dresch and Infinite Xs) with Kate Schellenbach (of Luscious Jackson), End of the World, Tartuffi, Alix Olson, DJ Pam the Funkstress, plus theater by The Devil-Ettes and more. \$10. 8:00pm - 12:00am: Ceremonial Room (1800 Market St.)

A Different Light Bookstore

Scott Schecter discusses his chronicle of one of the silver screen's greatest legends and one of the biggest icons in queer culture, the legendary Judy Garland. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891



Jared Lee, Nathan Baynard and Joe Duffy play in Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town* at Foothill Music Theatre in Los Altos Hills. See Friday.

Mission Creek Cafe

Ladyfest: "Representing Ourselves: Cam-Grrls" photography exhibit Free. 7am-8pm. 968 Valencia St.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

NCTC's Teen Summer Ensemble presents L.M. Montgomery's classic *Anne Of Green Gables*, adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette. Directed by Angela Jolly. When Ann Shirley moves to Green Gables, the town is turned upside down by her antics. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults. 10:30am & 1:30pm. Thru July 27. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market St.). Tix/info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

Thu 25

SF LGBT Community Center

Ladyfest workshops & panels: Session 1: "Know Your Rights" by the Center for Young Women's Development, 12-1:30pm, \$5; "Radical Forms of Self-Publishing" by P.J. Goodman (Pirate Jenny) 12-1:30pm, \$5; "Lipstick Traces: Contemporary Femme Identity" by Joey Stevenson, 12-1:30pm, \$5. Session 2: "How to be a Cable Access Television Star" by Dee Dee Russell (Dee Dee TV!), 1:45-3:15pm, \$5. "Starting Your Own Record Label" by Jenny Toomey (Future of Music Coalition) and Kate McCarthy, 1:45-3:15pm, \$5. "Stilt-Making and Stilt-Walking" by Leonie Newhouse, 1:45-3:15pm, \$5. Session 3: "DIY Travel: A Girl's Guide to Hitchhiking" by Anna Sochynsky, 3:30-5pm, \$5. "Myth and Reality in the Middle East: What the Media Leave Out" by Alison Weir (If Americans Knew), 3:30-5pm, \$5. 1800 Market St.

CELLspace

Ladyfest: "Fuchsia: Electronic/Experimental Music Show and Roller Jam," with Lil Pocketknife, Zeek Sheek, Crack: We Are Rock, Blevin Blectum, Sue Dean. \$5. 7pm-midnight. 2050 Bryant Street

Pond Gallery

Ladyfest art reception: "POW! The Power of Women in Illustrative & Sequential Arts," works by Trina Robbins, Roberta Gregory, Dame Darcy, Ariel Schrag, Nicole Repack (aka Jocelyn Superstar 2002), & Kelley Seda. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. 214 Valencia St.

Victoria Theatre

Ladyfest: "Looking Is Better Than Feeling You," a film program curated by Astria Suparak, featuring Kirsten Stoltmann's "You think you're punk but you're not" Miranda July's "The Drifters". \$7. 8pm-10pm. 2961 16th St.

Artists' Television Access

Ladyfest: Reception for Visual Arts. Tartuffi performing live at 5:30pm. 4-6:30pm. Free. 992 Valencia St.

Brava! For Women in the Arts

Ladyfest: "Music Night Show," featuring live sounds by Medusa, Jenny Toomey, Bleu and more. \$8-\$10 sliding. 8pm-midnight. 2781 24th St.

A Different Light Bookstore

Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Fight Club* and *Survivor*, reads from his latest novel, *Choke*. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891

Herbst Pavilion, Ft. Mason Center

Opening gala: "Photo San Francisco 2002," presenting works from 65 galleries and private dealers from the US and Europe. \$10 (a benefit for the Ft. Mason Center Historic Preservation Fund). 6-9pm. Tix/info: 552-9201; www.photosanfrancisco.net

New Conservatory Theatre Center

NCTC's Teen Summer Stock presents *The Children's Hour* by Lillian Hellman. When a malicious young girl spreads an entirely unfounded rumor about two women who run a school for young ladies, their lives are irrevocably broken. Directed by Donald Emmenrick. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults. 10:30am & 1:30pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market St.). Tix/info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

Magic Theatre, Southside

Word for Word presents "Stories by Tobias Wolff," three stories by a master storyteller: "In the Garden of the North American Martyrs" (about the academic career of Mary, an English teacher overlooked by her peers and patronized during a job interview at a prestigious East Coast University; "Lady's Dream" (a couple's separate memories of the crossroads of their life together), and "Bullet in the Brain" (the surprising, oddly distorted memoir of Anders, a jaded book critic). \$25. 8:30pm (3pm Sun.). Thru Aug. 25. Bldg. D., Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 437-6775; www.zspace.org

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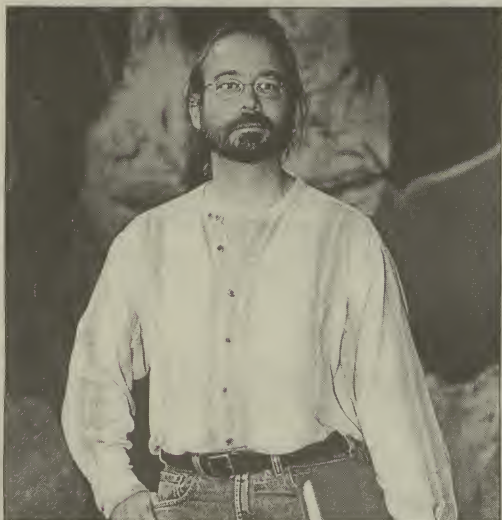
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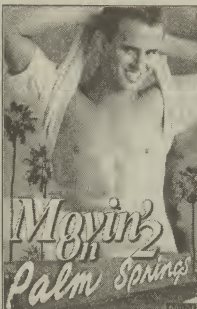
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Riot Grrrl on Mars

◀ Arts cover

opera *L'Italiana in Algeri*. The original libretto, by Angelo Anelli, sets the story in Venice in the 1800s, and tells of a young Italian woman who sails to Algeria because her boyfriend was kidnapped by pirates on the Mediterranean and sold into slavery in North Africa.

At the time of the original opera's debut, says Marley, "the whole business of getting kidnapped by somebody and taken to Algeria had different connotations." For audiences then, "it was sort of an Arabian Nights-like fantasy. But now we're living in an era when people actually do get kidnapped in Algeria, and it's all over the papers."

Warhorse trading

Marley set out to freshen up the tale for a modern audience, a skill he has acquired over many years of adapting tired old warhorses into vigorous new powerhouses. He had already proved his mettle by successfully reworking librettos for *Beatrice and Benedick* (Hector Berlioz), *Die Fledermaus* (Johann Strauss, Jr.), *Madame Angot's Daughter* (Charles Lecocq), and *The Tales of Hoffman* (Jacques Offenbach),

among others. The question with *L'Italiana/Riot Grrrl* was: Where could he set it that would be as far removed from us as Algeria was to the Venetians?

Well, Mars, duh. Especially if your boyfriend's a sci-fi freak. Being kidnapped and taken to Mars would certainly make sense in today's world, Nee and Marley agreed, so that part of it could work. But then, how would Marley draw a parallel to the highly caricatured Italian woman, portrayed in the distinctive manner of her era? Marley's goal was to keep to the spirit of the original Italian comedy, which draws characters with broad, bold strokes. He tried out various possibilities, including "The Berkeley Babe on Mars," and "The Cosmo Girl on Mars," but somehow those identities didn't have the right ring. Finally, a Commedia del Arte clown friend suggested "Riot Grrrl," a term that came out of the Seattle punk rock scene. After much pondering, Marley decided it was perfect.

"The Riot Grrrl is very strong and gutsy," says Marley. "She has fairly few moments of self-doubt. She knows what she wants to do and what it takes to get there, and she goes after it. But the King of Mars, who is sort of a satire on where America was 50 years ago, has been receiving these Earth television broadcasts, and he's become obsessed with Earth culture. He just watches the television all the time, and he just loves Earth culture, and he's given orders to all of his subjects to model their actions and clothing after Earthlings, and even to learn to speak Earthling."

One problem for the King: There's something wrong with the receiver on Mars, and the only channel the Martians can get is *Nick at Nite*, so their notion of Earth culture is deeply skewed.

The King wants an Earthling Queen, because he sees that all Earthwomen are submissive and obedient to men, spending all their day in the kitchen wearing little black aprons and strings of pearls. The King already has a Martian Queen, of course, but he's ready to dump her and move on.

"Which gets to the one major change I made to the structure of the story," says Marley. "In the Rossini, when the Italians escape from Algeria, everything in Algeria is understood to go right back to where it was. It's as if they were never there. And one thing I

strongly feel about plays is that it's really unsatisfying when you get to the end and everything is put back right where it was."

Dramatic arc

In *Riot Grrrl*, Marley wanted to see that the characters' lives had changed because of the events of the play. But he found it hard to find a place to do that in *L'Italiana*, because the libretto and music are not structured that way.

In mulling over possibilities during a phone call with Berkeley Opera Artistic Director Jonathan Khuner, Marley said, "The more I think about it, the more I don't want to leave Mars the way it was. I want us to see that something is different for the Riot Grrrl having been there. And the obvious place is to have the relationship between the Queen and the King end up different."

He lamented to Khuner that "it's really a shame Rossini didn't leave us some music, because there really ought to be a song for her. So I'm going to have to do it in recitative. I'm going to write a recitative scene for it."

Recitative is sung dialogue. An opera of that period, says Marley, was very much like a modern musical, except that instead of spoken dialogue, you had dialogue that was sung very rapidly to music that was of no particular musical quality.

But no sooner had he hung up the phone than a revelation hit him. He called Khuner right back, exclaiming: "We've got a tenor aria that I don't have any use for [because it in no way advanced the plot, and served only as musical fluff]. I have a soprano who doesn't have an aria in the whole show, and I want to give her an aria. I'm going to take it from the tenor and give it to the soprano, and that's going to be the Queen's aria."

Thus has Berkeley's resident opera queen supreme conjured up a magical new opera delight, flying on the winds of whimsy in its characterizations, but firmly anchored in Rossini's splendid music, with a nip and a tuck here and there to make it all work smoothly. ▼

The Riot Grrrl on Mars runs July 19-August 4 at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets (\$15-\$32, \$10 student rush): call (925) 798-1300.

THEATRE

Return to Tuna

Arts cover

these cowboys and these high-arts people — the fur crowd — and gays, because we were performing in Montrose, which is the gay center of Houston. So, here was everybody sitting together and having this wonderful time. I love to see people cross over."

Greater Tuna was born at a time when the Moral Majority was on the rise and Reagan was in the White House. Among the diverse tales of various Tuna residents are the exploits of Vera Carp, the Bible-thumping leader of the Smut Snatchers, as well as the dispatches from the redneck radio station OKKK. "There are a lot of little messages in the show," Sears said.

A *Tuna Christmas* and *Red, White and Tuna*, Williams' and Sears' follow-ups to their first hit, reprise many of the same characters, but the newer shows are more about having fun than scoring political points.

"The show is kind of pertinent again," Sears said of the first *Tuna*. "The old jokes fit some of the new situations" happening in this country.

Sears liked the idea of reviving the show, but Williams balked at the idea of one more go-round in *Greater Tuna*. Frankly, he said, he had grown tired of it.

"Our producer," Williams said, "kept saying there are people who haven't seen it with us in it. And I said, 'Well, I didn't see Yul Brynner do *The King and I*. I missed it, and sometimes you just miss it.' But these requests kept coming in, so finally I just said, 'Well, book it, and let's see what happens.'"

Grand tour

Williams and Sears express some surprise and considerable pleasure in how well the tour is going. "This particular tour year is very joyful for both of us," Sears said, "because he is without a lot of stress in his life, and I'm without a lot of stress in my life. We've had many good years. But we've also had some really bad, ugly years."

The tour has been fun enough, Williams added during a separate phone interview, that he keeps being happily reminded of the early days of the *Tuna* phenomenon. "Of course," he added, "we've evolved a lot since then, and been through a lot and survived a lot, and so has the country, so it's all been pretty amazing that it has been as pleasant as it has been."

The turnaround has been particularly sweet for Williams, who had to find his way out of an alcohol problem, and then deal with the death of his son in an automobile accident several years ago.

"I'm amazed that I'm alive," Williams said. "I lived a very wild life. It was hard for me to leave the party, because the party kind of revolved around me."

Williams and Sears have been friends since the 1970s, well before *Tuna* took hold, and they don't socialize much anymore. "He has a whole new set of friends," Sears said of his stage partner. "I ran around with Jaston when we were in our 20s, doing the '70s together, and we had a ball. He was coming back and forth every few months from San Francisco to San Antonio, where I lived. He was such a cute hippie. He loved that life, and he always brought it back to us."

For years, Sears has described himself as liberal, and Williams as "a lot more liberal than I am." It's a dichotomy that has widened in the wake of Sept. 11.

"I'm becoming less liberal since 9-11," Sears said. "I've



Joe Sears as Aunt Pearl Burras, and Jaston Williams as her nephew Stanley Bumiller, in *Greater Tuna*.

reevaluated some of my views. Maybe it's being cautious and vigilant. I'm not at the point where I vote Republican — I'm not a Log Cabin Republican — but right now, I am a patriot."

For Williams, a philosophy-changing event was not Sept. 11, but an Austin production of *The Laramie Project* in which he

played several key roles. "In many ways, I think that was the best thing I've ever been involved in," Williams said. "And it kind of changed me in many ways. I do think we should get beyond the labels, but there are times when it is very important to come out and say, 'Yes, I'm gay. Yes, this is my lifestyle. Not only am I proud of

it, I'm grateful for it.'"

Williams and Sears have reached a point in their relationship where they readily accept each other's differences. Like on the idea of a Halloween *Tuna*.

"Joe is hot on that, and I'm not," Williams said.

"We definitely have different viewpoints of what a fourth one

would be," Sears said.

Williams isn't even sure there will be a fourth edition of *Tuna*. "There may be another one in there," he said, "but I don't see what it would be."

Williams and Sears both have plenty of projects that they are pursuing independent of each other. Sears has written an historical pageant about the Cherokee Nation to be staged in Oklahoma, as well as a musical revue about "undeniable goodness" that will face its first audiences in Austin this fall. Williams has been enjoying stretching as an actor, including playing Truman Capote in the one-man play *Tru*, and *The Laramie Project*.

But the *Tuna* plays will always be the spiritual career anchor for Williams and Sears.

"I took on a spiritual thing a long time ago about the show," Sears said. "Most actors definitely would not have continued this long, but I make a good living, and I'm doing something good for people. I'm making them laugh when they need it." ▼

Greater Tuna will run July 23-Aug. 4 at the Curran Theatre. Tickets are \$25-\$56. Call 512-7770.

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PORN

The thing itself

Two jack-off fests testify

by John F. Karr

The shocking-thing about your penis is that it was originally a vagina. That's because we all start out female in the womb, and only change to males when that happy boy chromosome is added. That ridge up your balls, the one that looks like a seam? Exactly what it is: the seam that closed up your vagina, so you could grow a penis. Since I know it takes effort to recover from such news — "My Penis Was a Cunt!" — I'll offer the testimony of a lawyer friend who used to wave his mighty member of the bar in my face while quoting a little legalese: "*Res ipsa loquitur*," he would proudly proclaim. The Thing Speaks for Itself.

Showing absolutely no memory of its past life, The Thing takes the stand and testifies for Itself quite eloquently in two movies of jack-off solos, quieting down only after It regurgitates. From Falcon Studios comes the high-shine, cushioned ride of *Alone With, Volume 2*. Here, in typically Falconesque designer interiors, are a handful of the company's popular stars: Roland Dane with his lush geography of rolling curves; Robert Balint, looking very big and Hollywood leading-mannish; green-eyed beguiler Kirk Brady, whose itty bit of pubic hair sits

above a mesmerizing broad tube of solid flesh, topped by an invincible helmet head; cute blond kid Corey Summers, who's gonna look 19 until he's 40, fingering his hole and giving great face as he works his sturdy boycock with both hands; and, a special treat, lollipop Tommy Brandt, who's gonna look 12 'til he's 40. Okay, now. In this and the movie's finale, with Jackson Price at his most hospitable, the Thing ceases speaking for Itself, and engages in a joint appearance with a dildo. As my dear departed husband, Ephraim Levy, always used to say, "There's nothing like jacking off with something up your ass."

Muffin Tommy agrees, sliding a toy of sensible girth but satisfying length in there. He grinds around while working a delightful morsel of cock, his

facial reverie revealing his inner sensation. In Mr. Price's more excessive routine, he suavely and sensually employs a butt-plug and several larger-model dildos, finally hauling out one so big he's got to sit on it — yet he makes it look so easy that you'll want to try this at home. Between these cock 'n' toy duets are Cameron Fox, in the honored next-to-closing spot, preceded by the head-turning Alexander Cuza, with Istvan Csazar. This pair are kickin' back, just two buddies jerkin' off together while whispering sexily to each other. Their riveting and slightly mysterious relationship (they aren't speaking English) conveys a sense of sharing with each other that in turn shares with us in a rewarding way — unlike some of the boys earlier on the bill, their experience being more closed unto themselves. And Istvan lets fly with a stunning triple-gusher that hurtles a yard into the air. I had to rewind to watch it again, a repeat the editor should have provided.

As for Mr. Fox, he pays off big in a real star turn, providing what several of the other beauties lack:

charisma. His ass is so pretty I hoped little Tommy would walk in with a double-ended dildo — wouldn't that be a jack-off! Although director Max Phillips sometimes edits rather quickly, his videography snags the sights unfailingly.

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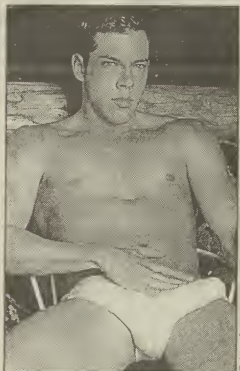
Big haul

It was sweet serendipity that brought me to Defiant Productions, a smaller, local company that specializes in skinny skate-

boarders with big dicks. The boys are filmed in definite (but nonetheless skilled) amateur-porn style. The camera provides a fixed, dead-on view that is unbroke-
ken by edits. This is real-
time
porn,
with real-
time guys.

Rock the Boat, one of the company's first features, was released in 2000, and features Nick, a lanky 20-year-old. There's a dangerous undertow to Nick's direct and feral gaze, which seizes our attention while he hauls out what seems to be a foot-long piece of inflexible cock. Then he brings out a beginner's dildo; not circus-act size, but built for simple pleasures. Which Nick lavishes upon himself while driving them home to us with his accosting gaze. Next we meet 19-year-old Chad, a beefier guy with a macaroni-and-cheese cock that's a hefty serving of comfort food. In a third scene, the boys jerk off together. While the putatively straight Nick looks at a girlie mag, he gets some ardent head from Chad. Then, Nick surprisingly asks Chad to fuck him up the ass! That's so like a straight boy — won't suck your dick, but'll let you fuck him. Once again, though, it's his trusty dildo that brings Nick off. This is a fascinating and hornyfying stretch of film. I'll have more news about Defiant Productions soon. ▼

www.Pornteam.com



Green-eyed beguiler Kirk Brady

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

25, MC Faucen celebrates their 25th anniversary ("Migration 2001") in Montreal, and in San Diego, it's the Southern California Leather/Sir Boy regional contest.

Over the last weekend of the month (Aug. 28 to Sep. 2), it's Southern Decadence in down in New Orleans, and out west, the Satyr's MC of Los Angeles stage their 41st annual weekend bike run to Badger Flat.

Sunday, September 1 is the date for the 20th San Francisco Leather Daddy's Boy contest. Also, for the women, Powersurge is supposed to take place in Seattle, but I've received no further word on that yet.

Sashes here, there, everywhere

Only one man and one woman entered the Alameda County leather competition on Saturday, July 13, so each had to get at least 60 percent of the available points to win — and they did!

The contest theme was "Re-

mote Control," based on your TV clicker, complete with humorous commercials with the dynamic Lenny Broberg (as Peter Jennings) and Donna Sachet (as Diane Sawyer) emceeing. In the end, John Grisamore and Mistress Myna got the title patches they sought, but not until after some dynamic entertainment by Michael Kaye (fabulous!) and Liza with a Z from Chicago, and of course a number by Donna Sachet. The stepping down speeches by J.J. Ferrer and Kat Matthews were short and to the point. At my deadline, I was unable to obtain the name of the recipient of the Lee Bell achievement award presented by President Jane Randall.

Judges Jake Schwartz, Laurie Aguinaga, Beth Elliott, Den Calkins and (from Chicago) Steve Elliott were impressed enough by both contestants to award them the title. It was a great event for the 200 or so attendees, including Mr. Leather Mexico 2002 Leo Suarez who is making the local leather title holders look somewhat shabby by not appearing at this regional event. Nevertheless, Alameda County's leather com-

munity is alive and well and yes, thriving!

In Washington, D.C., that hunky Ralph Wood captured the Mid-Atlantic Sir 2002 title, and Jose' Gutierrez was chosen the Mid-Atlantic Leather Boy. Both will advance to compete for the International titles in Florida in October. Ralph is from Pennsylvania and Jose' is from Washington, D.C..

On Sunday, July 14, a rousing crowd gathered for the International Mr. and Ms. Deaf Leather titles, but alas, no woman stepped forward to compete. Details are sketchy, but William "Bam" Coleman won the title. At my deadline, it was not certain that Ms. Black X would keep the title for another year. The first runner-up was Doug Dickinson from Dublin, California, and the second runner-up was Dennis Hart from Philadelphia.

That it's for now. Get some rest while you can, and gear up for all the events coming your way. To learn what is happening in other leather communities, check out the columnists on www.L Leather-Page.com. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Bell Market In Noe Valley On June 17
You, tall, handsome, dark hair, red check shirt ahead of me in check out line, early evening. Me, tall, short dark hair and glasses. You stared. Would like to meet you. ☎ 71882

Adrian, Responding To Ad #71836
Dark eyes olive skin, dark hair. Your six two (6'2"), and work at home and sound great! But, you forgot to leave your #. Please try again, Thank you. Daniel. ☎ 71883

7/7 Lv To Oak Swair
You: yellow A's cap, blk tee. Me: green tee, wht shorts. We shared a plane, a shuttle and a Bart train. Now, now about dinner? (great legs, btw). ☎ 71905

Sun 6/30 11:30am Muni Castro To Powell. Me: Daddy in Monet T-shirt.
You: Boyish with two friends. We chatted at the map and played mutual eye games till Powell. Lost track of you. It's a long shot, but... ☎ 71906

Bewitching Eyes!
A passing smile on 6/30 at Pride RadFaer Village, but can't forget those eyes. You: Slender, mulatto, long hair. Me: Stocky, sunburned Caucasian, short hair. Destiny calls! ☎ 71907

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

~Asian!~
Young looking, caring GAM, 53yo., slim, is looking for an older GWM, for relationship. We enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 71884

Strong Sensitive Man
GWM, 56y, 6'2", 179#. ISO romantic at heart, physically attractive, professional, HIV- top or versatile, vanilla to kinky, 30-50's, Asian or Jews A+ and desires ltr. ☎ 71885

Adventurous Goodlooking Sexy
49yo dark eyes olive skin, bottom, 6'1", 190lbs well defined and endowed seeks sexy, honest, intelligent, dark complexion preferred. Ages 35-50. ☎ 71886

Mex-Rican Like 4 Asian/Japanese
I'm 5'8"/155, dark skin versatile or bottom nice round butt husky look medium muscular body: You- under 40, top or versatile, masculine slim, height/weight proportional N/D N/fats or fems. Call now. ☎ 71887

ISO Relationship
GWM, 55, 5'10", 215lbs, Italian, poz, ISO older BM to explore relationship, my hobbies: movies, dining out, music, politics, travel. Oakland. ☎ 71888

Seek Ltr Total Top, Mtg Weekly
Attractive healthy AM in excellent shape wants to play total bottom. You: healthy total top, East/ South/ West Bay, any age/race, N/D, no diseases. ☎ 71889

Athletic & Professional Black
Male, warm, cuddly, friendly, understanding. Available for long-term relationship. Prefer senior citizen type, over 60yo. Let's talk-- Have a lot to offer. ☎ 71890

Dominant Mature Masculine GWM
ISO submissive, healthy, GWM, well built to train for his pleasure. Clean shaven a plus but not essential. ☎ 71897

~Cute Young Brazilian~
Single, attractive, 36yr old seeks 18-40yr old nice guys for ltr relationship or casual dating, romantic inquiries please. ☎ 71898

Peninsula Poz Man Boy
Poz, healthy 36, Mexican-Portuguese. Tan skin, runners build looking together poz guys for dating and sensual fun. Nice butts are a plus. ☎ 71899

Seek Long Hard Nipples To Suck
W/B; goodlooking wants A/W w/smooth body clean shaven who needs top to bottom oral service, you're horny I'm eager to tickle your tits w/my tongue, lips. Hope for ltr. ☎ 71900

I Suck. You Fuck. My Ass Awaits.
Midage goodlooking W/B; curious seeks A/W smooth to lite hairy clean shaven who likes being sucked hard to fuck me then willing to suck me to completion steady sex buddy. ☎ 71901

"Rookie Cops S.F."
Young goodlooking gay or straight police officers, for good safe sex and possible relationship. No smokers, fats or fems. ☎ 71908

Shoulder To Lean On
Attractive, relationship oriented, young looking Asian 40, 5'6", slim, intelligent, clean-cut seeks similar attractive GWM 30-48 for dating. poss.ltr. ☎ 71909

Young At Heart GWM Seeks Romance
GWM seeks fun man for dating, possible relationship as time goes by- Young 50, fit, goodlooking (I'm told), active, versatile, 6', 170lbs, artistic, versatile, romantic, humorous. ☎ 71910

"Baseball-Players"
Seeking males all races. Big round butts, nice strong legs, swollen nipples and great teeth and clean hygiene. No fats or fems. ☎ 71911

SEEKING ADVENTURE

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Masculine looking and acting bottom, olive skin, bubble ass, 36yrs old, 5'8", 155. You Asian under 40, height/weight proportional husky slender build A+, no fats no fems no drugs. ☎ 71891

Big Dick For 69 Wanted
Masculine, discrete dude looking for a hung 69 bud. I work out, aub/grn, age 35, nice cock +balls. You: Big dick, over 35. ☎ 71902

Bottoms Wanted
Black male top, muscular, hung. Seeking White, Latino bottoms 21-45. Smooth a plus. ☎ 71903

Oakland Black Man, 48.
Needs a good fast BJ 2x weekly. Seeking a mature, masculine oral expert, either clean shaven or moustahe only. Direct contact phone # required. Husky build a plus. ☎ 71912

Big, Chubby, Fat, Husky
GBM, 5'11", 250lbs, big chest, hung, 48yo. seeks big men for intimate, discreet, fun times. Please be big and uninhibited. ☎ 71913

Do You Want To Cuddle?
Slender dark HM seeking fit WM 45-55yr. old for overnight cuddling. Sex not necessary, just some good company. ☎ 71914

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Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking topman, 37, 5'11", 170#, work out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71916

"Bodybuilders-Prof."
Love big swollen nipples chest males for strong aggressive hot safe love making. Strong nipple sucking, rimming and good kissing plus a possible relationship. No fems or fats. ☎ 71917

Total Pig
GWM 39 150lbs blond brown hair swimmer build, into fishing, toys, fucking giving & receiving. ☎ 71918

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S.F. Leather Guy
Seeks others into same- Chaps, jock straps, etc. Into erotic twisted leather action-. Leave message. Details and how to reach you. I am White, 35, lean and horny. ☎ 71893

Masochistic Bottom
Submissive bottom boy, 34, 5'10", b/bl, 160, needs strict and severe discipline, training, and control. Please take me to your woodshed. Sir. Have cans, paddles, straps and whips. ☎ 71894

Oral Service Wanted
WLM 47, 6', 165lbs, hairy, stache. I'm looking for a younger M to give me slow, sensual oral service. Effeminate looking & acting A+. ☎ 71895

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By mature body builder who wants a steady partner for mutual rimming scenes. ☎ 71904

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I'm a 30-ish WM who thinks he might be. Would like to discuss process with M to F Lesbian, or others. Excited by all the possibilities. ☎ 71896

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Beard looking for obedient hungry holes. ☎ 71921

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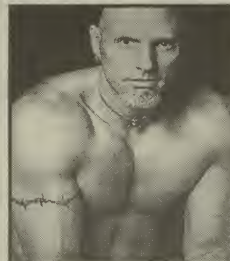
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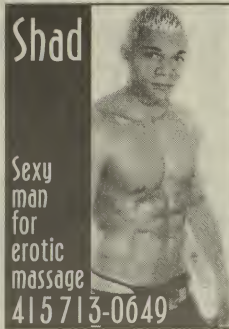
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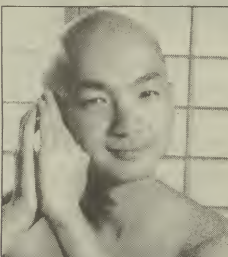
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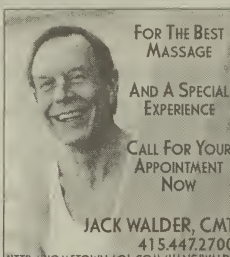
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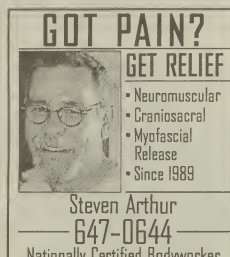
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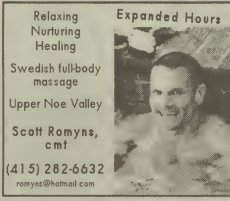
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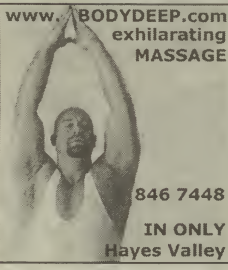
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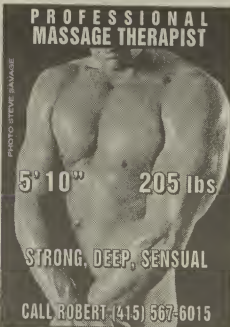
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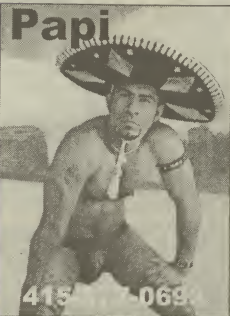


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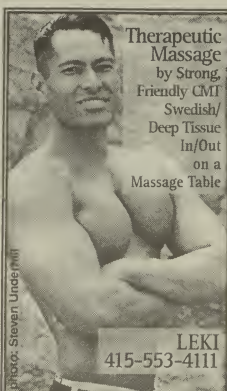
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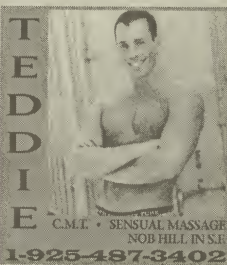
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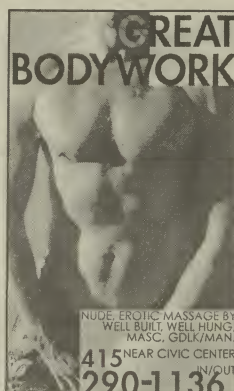
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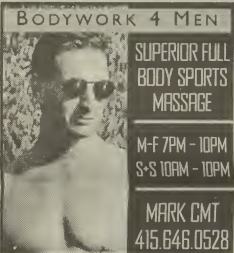
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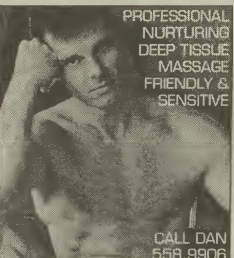


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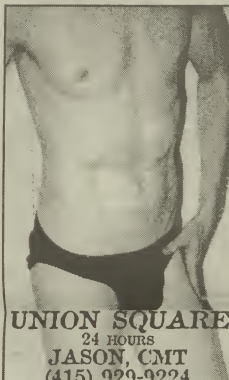
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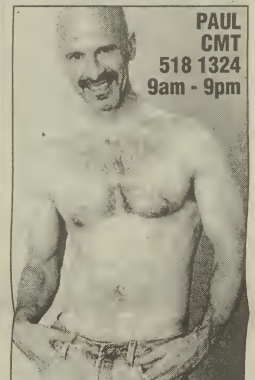
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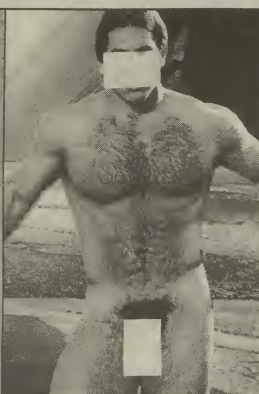
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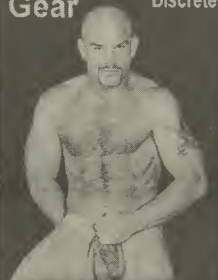
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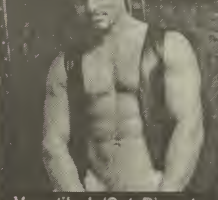
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7" Uncut.
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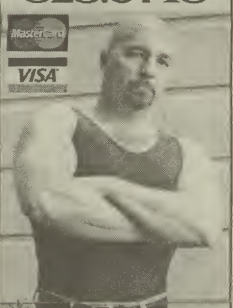
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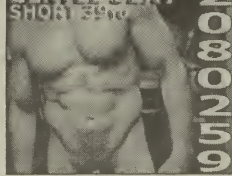
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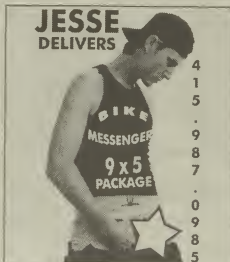
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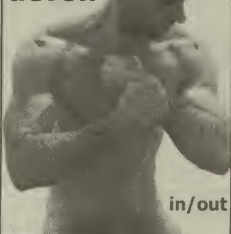
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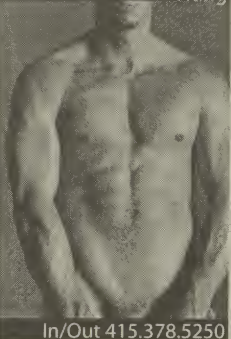
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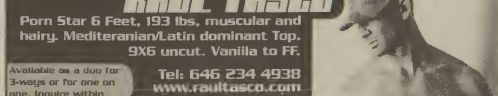
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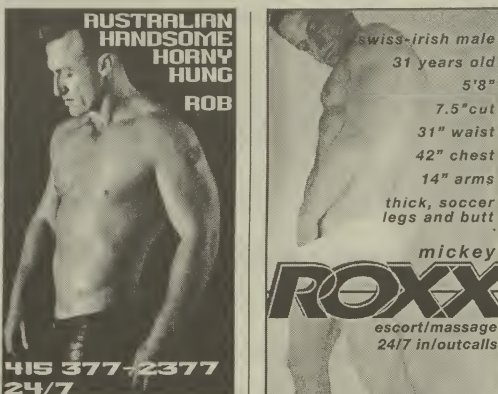
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510-238-8877
 For other California areas
1-888-272-7277

San Francisco
415-330-4888
 Use **FREE** code 2160

1-900-505-2323 (\$1.99/min.) 18+ Browse at www.interactivemale.com

WORN STRAIGHT GUYS 1-900-505-2324 10¢/min. 18+

Casual Sex **30** Minutes
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 Display advertising rates
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First line, Regular 4.50
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 Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number
 Expiration Date
 Signature
 Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Telephone
 Address
 City State Zip
 Number of Issues Classification Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:
 Bay Area Reporter
 395 Ninth Street
 SF, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
 415.861.8144
OR E-MAIL:
 baradv@aol.com


HEPATITIS A&B...no big deal, right?

Nausea so bad you want to die
A month away from work.
No appetite for weeks.
No sex. No beer, no wine,
no vodka. No gym.
Stuck in the hospital.
Yellow skin. Yellow eyes.
Fever. Chills.
And years later...
some liver damage,
maybe even death.

You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis


AIC
San Francisco
Department of
Public Health

Adult Immunization Clinic
101 Grove Street (Grove and Polk)
Suite 405
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.2625
www.dph.sf.ca.us


GLMA
GAY & LESBIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
www.glma.org

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